MacFormat ISSUE 210 July 2009

50 essential Mac shortcuts > Mac makeover: from Mac mini to Mac media centre > Group Test: six Mac spreadsheet apps tested > Technologies that will be in your Mac next year Printed in the UK

All your Apple needs

# Mac FORMAT

>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 210 July 2009

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- Axiotron Modbook
- µ Tough 8000
- MacFamilyTree

AND MUCH MORE!

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## 50 essential Mac timesavers

Follow our route to Mac-using nirvana!

HOW-TO GUIDES

## Mac makeover

From Mac mini to media centre

My summer holiday

## Master video

Play and convert clips on a Mac

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MY MACCELLEROMETER IS GOING OFF THE SCALE!

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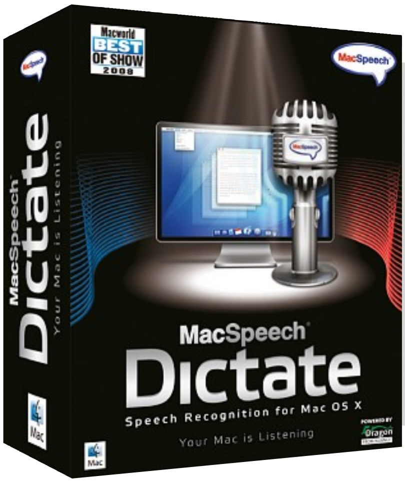

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# Welcome…

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**Turn to p30 to sign up!**

On page 81 of this issue you'll find our review of the Axiotron Modbook. Cleverly, Axiotron has bolted a touchscreen onto a regular MacBook, and made it work. You have to applaud the barefaced cheek – if Apple doesn't want to make a tablet Mac then Axiotron is going to make one for them!

In the gap between the announcement of the Modbook (way back in Jan 2007) and its actual release in the UK, Apple released the iPhone. If anybody ever needed testament to the fact that the iPhone changed everything then give them the Modbook to play with for a few minutes. Virtually everybody who has visited the *MacFormat* offices to play with it has tried to use it with their fingers, rather than the supplied stylus. When you tell them they have to use a stylus they look at you like you've just asked them to go back to using a dot matrix printer, instead of the office laser.

All this makes me wonder what Apple has got up its sleeve for us next. It's deliberately stayed out of the tablet PC and netbook markets so far, presumably because it wants to offer a product that people will actually love, rather than something that just fills a hole. I can't wait to find out what that product is going to be.

**Graham Barlow, Editor**
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

My summer holiday

## >> THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

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## >> MEET THE TEAM / YOUR MACFORMAT EXPERTS!

### Christopher Phin

Deputy Editor

"A Mac mini [is] a proper little Mac, ready to be expanded, added to and turbo-boosted to do everything you need it to."

**A Mac media centre. p24**

### Ian Osborne

Reviews Editor

"Handwriting recognition is a slight chore, and typing using the virtual keyboard is a complete pain."

**Ian on why Apple hasn't made a tablet Mac. p81**

### Christopher Brennan

OS X expert

"Bear in mind that there are about 30 different iMac models and some are identifiable only by their processor!"

**Chris wants to know what Mac you own. p64**

### Luis Villazon

Technical wizard

"Network security is like any other kind of house security. Is it ever okay to leave the little bathroom window open at night? It depends where you live."

**Luis on Mac security. p72**

### Craig Grannell

Software guru

"We much prefer Fusion and Parallels. And unless you only care for the few apps fully supported by CrossOver, we suspect you will, too."

**Craig puts the boot in. p90**

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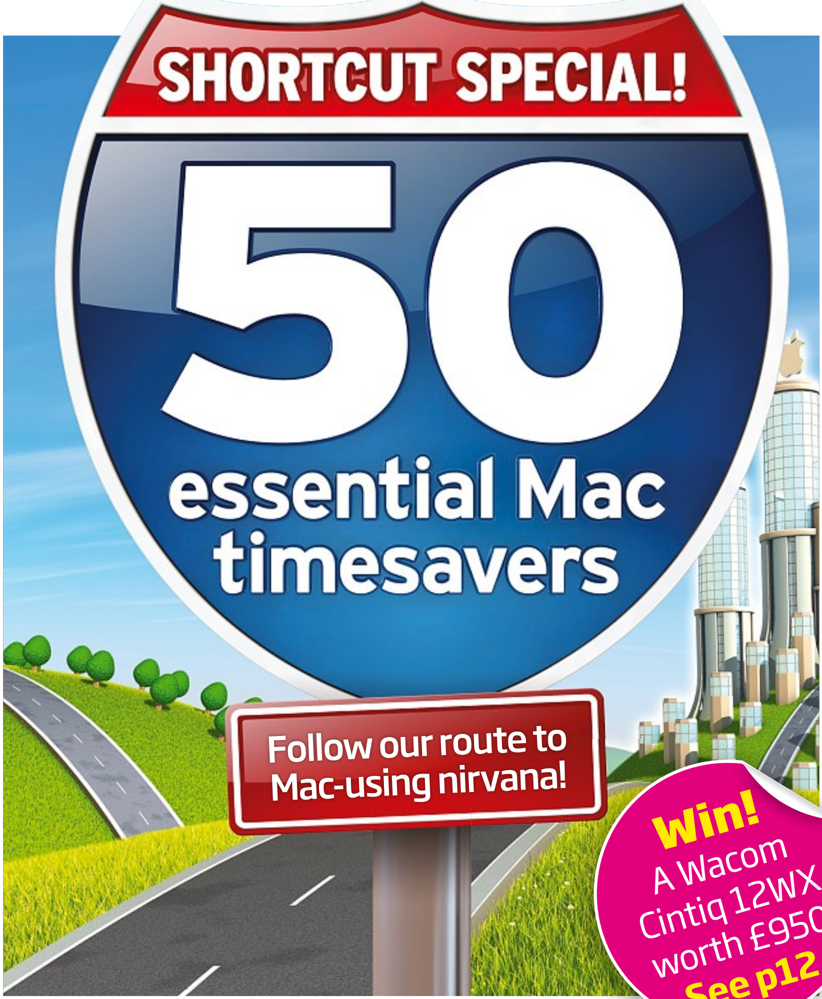


SHORTCUT SPECIAL!

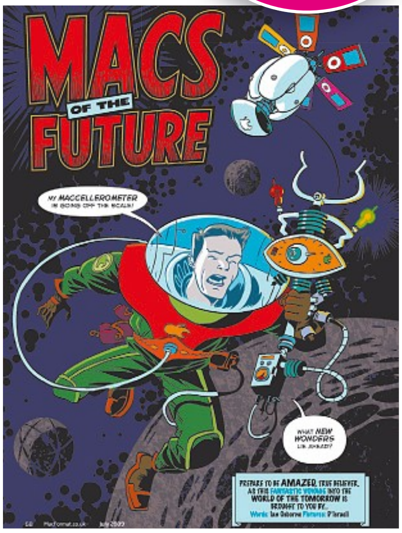
# 50 essential Mac timesavers

Follow our route to Mac-using nirvana!

**Win!** A Wacom Cintiq 12WX worth £950 **See p12**

### > Mac media centre

Play it all through a Mac mini **p24**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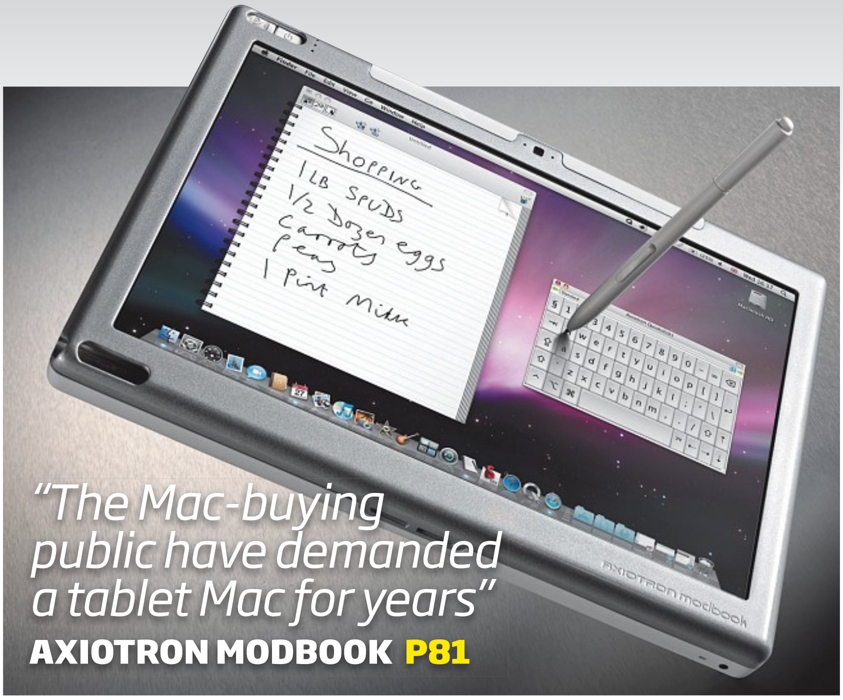

*"The Mac-buying public have demanded a tablet Mac for years"*

**AXIOTRON MODBOOK P81**

All your Apple needs
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Use hidden iPhone features
Boost your Photoshop skills
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*"From tracking sports results right through to solving equations, there isn't much a spreadsheet can't help you with"*

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Download flies even faster!

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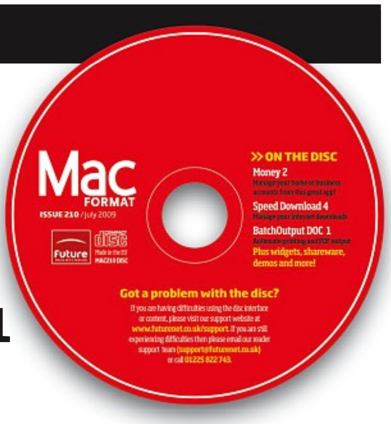
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# Start up

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# Snow Leopard under the skin

Developers have pre-release versions, but what is inside Mac OS X 10.6?

Apple has said the focus of Snow Leopard development isn't on new features, but on building "a new generation of core software technologies that will streamline Mac OS X, enhance its performance and set new standards for quality."

Users' curiosity intensified on the recent release (and subsequent removal at the behest of Apple legal) of six YouTube clips allegedly demonstrating what's inside the next-gen OS. We can't verify the authenticity of these videos, but they do tally with what we've come to expect.

Last year, Apple confirmed the new OS will offer a 64-bit architecture (potentially enabling future Macs to use up to 16TB of memory), next-generation multicore (Grand Central) and GPU processor support (Open CL). More recently, Apple promised "amazing new accessibility technologies", suggesting improvements in the company's **VoiceOver** technology.

## Several improvements

The recently available video clips suggest improvements in *Finder*, text handling features and *QuickTime*.

Multiple *Finder* improvements include a slider to adjust the size of icons in a window and some fine-tuning in keyboard shortcuts, which have been made more universal than before and can be enabled for specific needs.

If you've ever accidentally deleted a picture or other file, you'll be interested in an invaluable feature detailed within one of the clips, **Put Back**. This restores a file in Trash to where it came from.

Finally, Apple's **Services** menu has been tweaked and are now nested into specific categories, **Text** or **Messages**, for

Getty Images
WWDC08
WWDC08

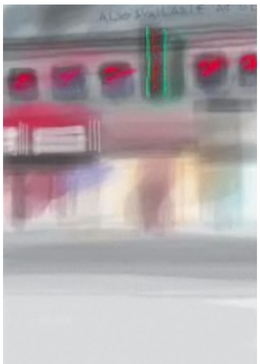
**Snow Leopard is expected to take centre stage at this year's WWDC.**

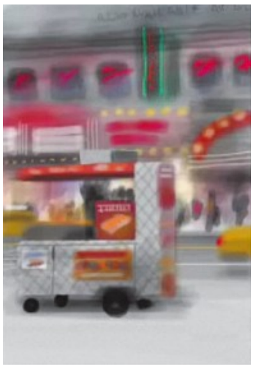
**NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Free TV

UK broadcasters BBC, Channel 4 and ITV may in future offer full episodes of shows through YouTube and Hulu. Hulu is expected to launch in the UK in September, offering more than 3,000 hours of US-made content. Hulu is in talks with UK broadcasters to include their material.

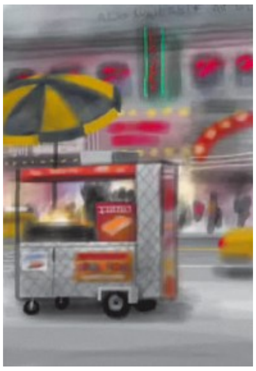
## APPLE IN PICTURES / iPhone makes the cover

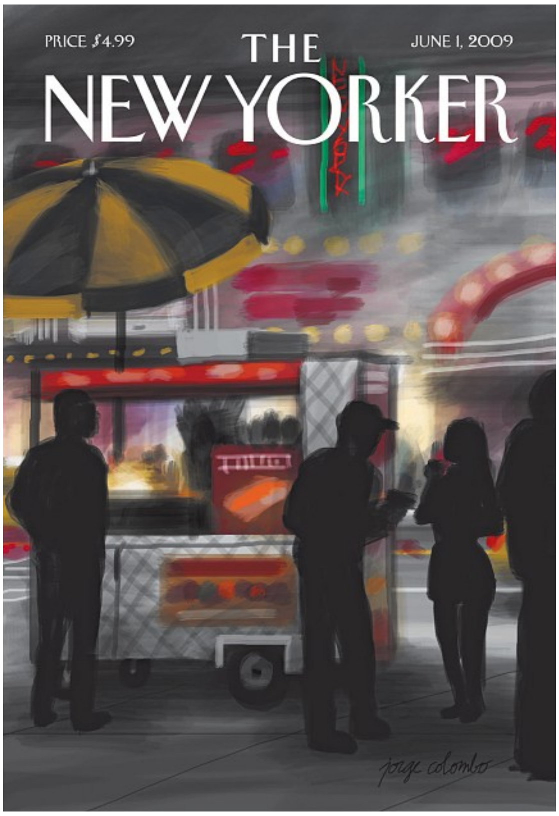




**iPHONE ART**

Artist Jorge Colombo drew the cover image for a recent edition of *The New Yorker* magazine using his iPhone and the *Brushes App* - it took him an hour. Check out **www.newyorker.com** to see how he did it.





example. A new **Services Preferences** system is also demonstrated.

### Stacks and text-handling

At present, **Stacks** lets you access folders of files from within the Dock, making it easier to navigate to the file you want to reach without using *Finder*'s interface. The new version will let you navigate the content inside folders that are themselves contained within a **Stack**.

Text-handling features also see improvement. Users will be able to apply smart quotes, smart dashes, smart dates (such as add to *iCal* or view date in *iCal*) and enjoy auto-correction of spelling errors, on a system-based basis.

Apple appears to be applying some of the system features it has invented for the iPhone, with improved data detectors to provide options around context-sensitive items such as contacts or addresses. On an iPhone, these data detectors enable you to navigate to a Google map from an address in an email, or add contacts to an address book and more. Security is also improved, with the introduction of easy-to-understand management features.

There's a new interface for *QuickTime X Player*, too. Gone is the grey box and a borderless playback window and controls similar to those in *iMovie* replace it. The only window-based interface element will be seen in the title bar. *QuickTime* will boast the ability to trim clips and to save and export videos. Moreover, the videos claim *QuickTime* will let users record what's happening on-screen. You will also be able to share clips, using built-in commands to export and encode assets for *iTunes* or MobileMe.

**APPLE IN NUMBERS**

**4 million**

Estimated downloads of Skype app for iPhone.

### Other enhancements

Apple has already stated that Snow Leopard will offer built-in support for Microsoft Exchange, a feature which should make the Mac even more prevalent in office environments. It has also been suggested users will be able to assign applications to specific Spaces using the Dock. We hope to bring you a full preview next issue, which goes on sale on 22 July.●

> *"Did you see Dell created a microsite for women, called Della? Hideous."*
>
> **Chris Phin on tech companies that market tech specifically at women.**

## Apple talk

Who's saying what?

**>Bertrand Serlet**
**www.apple.com**
"We will be giving our developers a final Developer Preview release so they can see the incredible progress."
**Apple's WWDC is Snow Leopard obsessed**

**>David Hockney**
**www.davidhockney.com**
"I like to draw flowers by hand on the iPhone and send them out to friends. And my flowers last! They never die!"
**Leading British painter gets some iPhone action**

**>Ted Marzilli**
**www.brandindex.com**
"Apple did a great job of putting Microsoft on the defensive. It made them look old, stodgy, unhip and complicated to use."
**Microsoft anti-Apple ads make some impact**

**>Gene Munster**
**www.piperjaffray.com**
"It is increasingly clear that Apple is investing more in its mobile computing franchise."
**Analyst predicts tablet**

**>Anthony Rose**
**www.bbc.co.uk**
"iPlayer on the iPhone peaks at about midnight - people are going to bed with their iPhone and watching in bed".
**BBC online chief talks**

**Let us know if you've heard any great Apple quotes by emailing them to macformat@futurenet.com**

**>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

# Flowers in the IT world

## Christopher Phin

Not that I want to drive you away, but flip the page and you'll see that *MacFormat* has acquired a new columnist… and it's a girl. I know: a female, in a computer magazine. Human sacrifice, dogs and cats living together, mass hysteria; everything we have held dear, all our frames of reference, all the basic human dignities that our forefathers fought and died for, swept away by a single email. It's a momentous day, ladies and gentlemen.

And it's a damn fine day. You could cut the testosterone in most computer magazines' staff line-ups with a knife. With a big, serrated, blood-stained, Steven Segal-style knife. Grrrrr. This, however, is a bad thing.

It's a bad thing for all sorts of reasons. It's tiresome, unrealistic and dull, and reinforces the idea that women are somehow special flowers in the world of IT, which seems to lead to companies thinking that they ought to design stuff especially for women, rather than, you know, for human beings. (Worse, 'designed for women' usually means 'exactly the same design and moulds, just with lilac and hot pink'.)

> *"All the human dignities that our forefathers fought and died for, swept away by a single email"*

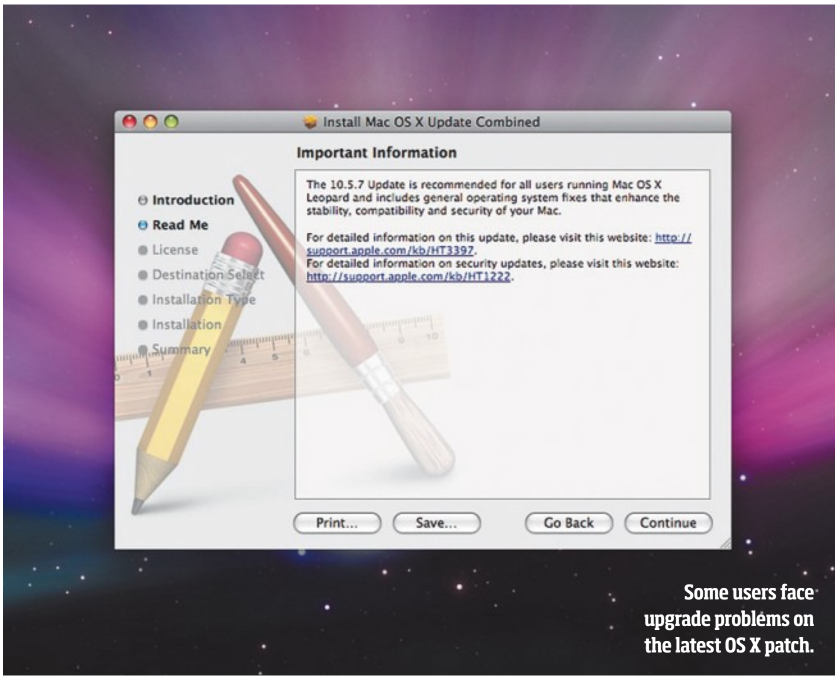
This passive-aggressive misogyny is disgraceful. Did you see Dell created a microsite for women, called Della? Hideous. (It has been re-spun as a lifestyle site, with no special mention of what ladies want from laptops.)

Still, I can't pretend to know what it's like to be a woman – weekly meetings of the High Heels and Hard Disks club aside – any more than I would try to feign brotherhood with a Jew or a Geordie at anything other than a basic human level.

Nor do I expect Susie to be an ambassador for her sex. That's the kind of thinking I'm against; women aren't some amorphous mass that requires special rules of engagement.

I do, however – having met her – suspect she'll be a damned fine columnist, and I'm thoroughly looking forward to reading her column every month. Hope you are, too. ●

**Deputy Editor Christopher Phin wrote this column while wearing his wife's best cocktail dress and Jimmy Choo stilettos.**



Important Information

The 10.5.7 Update is recommended for all users running Mac OS X Leopard and includes general operating system fixes that enhance the stability, compatibility and security of your Mac.

For detailed information on this update, please visit this website: http://support.apple.com/kb/HT3397.
For detailed information on security updates, please visit this website: http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1222.

Some users face upgrade problems on the latest OS X patch.

**>> MAC OS X NEWS**

# Apple's update full of bugs

## Problems plague Mac OS X 10.5.7 patch

Apple's recently released OS X 10.5.7 update was packed with security and bug fixes, many feature improvements – and in some cases threw users into an endless loop as it failed to install correctly.

The download promised to "enhance the stability, compatibility and security of your Mac". Writing on the company's support website, users reported two main problems: incomplete downloads of the software and failed installations of the code once the software was downloaded. The latter had the effect of causing some Macs to stall, leaving users staring at a blank blue screen.

**>> APPLE IN NUMBERS**

**10.8%**

iPhone's slice of global smartphone market.

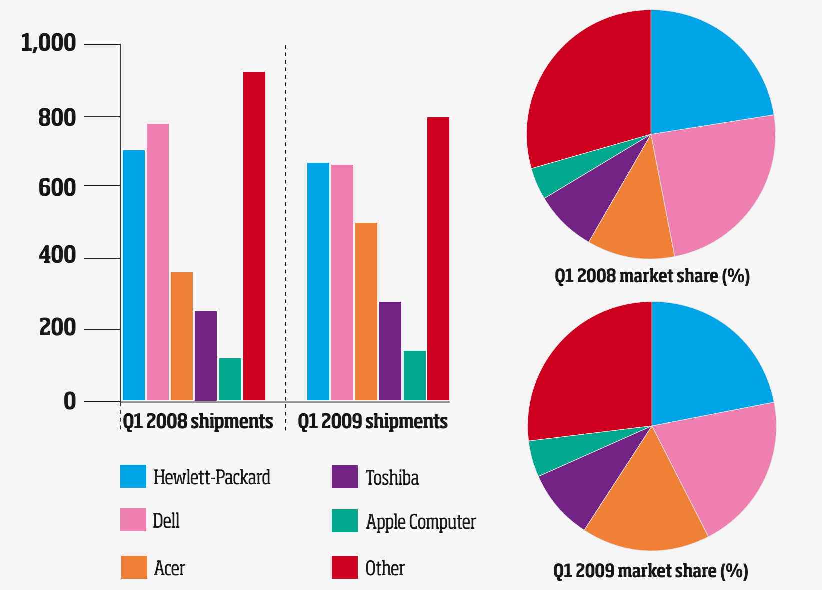
It's not the first time a software patch has caused problems. Most Mac support technicians recommend users avoid using the automated *Software Update* system for major patches; instead, it's wise to download and install the Combo Update, which is made available for direct download from Apple's support site. Installation using the Combo Update causes fewer problems.

Speaking on Apple's discussion forums, one user explains: "I had the cycling blue screen problem too with the standalone, and having done a hard power-off and back on again, following three automatic reboots, it has sorted itself out."

If your Mac refuses to leave the blue screen, then MacFixIt recommends users boot into Safe Mode. Achieve this by shutting down your Mac, pressing the power button and then depressing the ⇧ key as soon as possible once you hear the startup tone. Release ⇧ when you see the grey  icon and the progress indicator. To exit this mode, just restart.

The update has also reportedly caused problems with screen resolutions on some Macs, changing existing configurations. Tackle this with a PRAM reset. ●

## APPLE IN NUMBERS / Future shipments



United Kingdom PC-vendor unit shipment estimates for Q1 2009 (thousands of units). Source: Gartner.

**APPLE NEWS**

# Apple looks to expand online

## Big deal with US state hints Apple's future plans

Apple is negotiating a deal with a US state to secure tax breaks for a billion-dollar server farm.

Set for construction in North Carolina, Apple's plans for the farm remain unclear, though complaints of the company's .Me servers suggest some motivation to improve that side of the business.

Lawmakers in North Carolina have altered tax rules to benefit Apple, so long as it situates its facility in a poorer area and provides decent wages and health insurance for workers it employs there. The tax breaks are set to be worth $46 million across the next ten years.

Apple has not responded to the claims first made in the *Charlotte Observer*, citing a state official with knowledge of the plan. There's a history of such deals in the state; in 2007, Google committed to a $600-million deal for a server farm in exchange for a $260 million benefit package.

What the server farm is for is unknown: iPhone, iTunes Store and MobileMe services all rely on internet-based delivery systems, while industry moves toward provision of software as a service may also predicate an expansion in the company's data centres. Perhaps Apple will one day offer *iLife* as an internet-based service? That Apple's planned facility will be almost twice the size of Google's farm in the same state lends weight to notions it intends staking yet more space in the cloud of future online-based services. ●

**APPLE IN NUMBERS**

**600MHz**

Pre-WWDC claim for speed of next iPhone.

## HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

**HOT: No netbook for WWDC**
Apple is unlikely to dent the impact of any new iPhone launch with a competing product at the same venue. There's evidence that Apple is developing a netbook, though.

**HOT: Apple netbook for 2010?**
Analyst Gene Munster expects Apple to introduce a netbook/tablet Mac in 2010, citing problems in OS development. We think it's all about timing the launch.

**NOT: Apple to buy Electronic Arts**
CNBC's *Fast Money* host Guy Adami fired up this rumour. We think Apple will jettison any such deal even if it is being discussed, preferring partnership to purchase.

**NOT: Apple to axe Apple TV?**
Dan Frommer claims Apple's shelved plans to improve the Apple TV until its software improves. We'd argue the focus is to keep early adopters happy with their investment.

## Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

The BBC's *All the Small Things* is an uplifting story of the highs and lows in a small town choir when a relationship falls apart. The all-singing show featured a MacBook Air during episode six on 5 May.

**If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us about it!**

>> ACROSS THE POND

# Get a Mac: we get it!

Susie Ochs

How sad is this? The race between Apple and Microsoft reduced to a war of TV commercials. The 55 *Get a Mac* ads, shown in the US since May 2006, pairing off the "cooler" Mac (actor Justin Long) against the "stuffy" PC (author/humorist/actor John Hodgman, who comes across as more likeable), are losing their effectiveness. While early ones focused on differences between the platforms, the last few to air are merely shots back at Microsoft's new *Laptop Hunters* ads, which replaced the disastrous *I'm a PC* ads, which were reactions to Apple's original *Get a Mac* ads. It's a vicious circle of ads, and I want to get off!

Worse, Redmond's strategy of 'Macs are too expensive for regular people' seems to be working. Research firm YouGov BrandIndex found that Apple's perceived value among consumers aged 18-34 dropped starting in April 2009, and Apple's Mac sales that month were down 1.8% over April 2008. Interestingly, the value perception among those aged 35-49 dipped slightly but has recovered, and among consumers 50 and older, value perception is about the same.

> *"Apple needs to reinforce that its higher price buys a better experience. The benefits aren't being articulated"*

Microsoft's hammering on hardware cost is understandable in a recession, but it doesn't even make the hardware, just the OS and software. By focusing on the so-called Apple hardware tax, Redmond can sidestep the true comparison: it's Vista versus the less virus-prone Mac OS X. Sure, some *Get a Mac* ads did take aim at Vista, but the jabs are less informative than simply snarky.

Apple needs to reinforce that its higher price buys a better experience. Show us what Leopard can do – something the current iPhone ads do well. How about a 'Service Hunter' spot? Following a Mac buyer who gets expert migration help and software training right in the Apple Store. Or an ad showing Leopard running fine on a four-year-old PowerBook G4? Apple's unique control over what hardware can run its OS has consumer benefits that aren't being articulated, and the *Get a Mac* format just doesn't cut it any more. ●

**Susie Ochs is the Senior Editor of *Mac|Life* based in San Francisco. She is also a "thrill-seeker and burrito enthusiast".**

>> iTUNES NEWS

# Oasis for iTunes

## Apple heads to Camden for third music jamboree

Apple presents its third iTunes Live Festival next month at the prestigious Roundhouse in Camden, London.

iTunes will host more than 50 artists during the annual festival, daily gigs including some of music's biggest names: Oasis, Snow Patrol, Kasabian, The Saturdays, Flo Rida, Paolo Nutini, Bat for Lashes and Franz Ferdinand are among those announced so far.

The company has also made moves to integrate this year's event with the world's most actively used social network, Facebook, creating an *iTunes* profile page on the service. Using this page, music fans can keep up to date with the latest line-up announcements, free ticket competitions, news, video highlights and live audio broadcasts.

Tickets for all the performances are free, though strictly limited. In order to get tickets, music lovers must visit the Facebook profile page and follow the ticket application instructions. Apple is also offering those of us who don't use the social network the chance to win tickets at www.ituneslive.co.uk/lineup.php.

**See Bat for Lashes, Oasis, Franz Ferdinand and others for free. Get tickets via Facebook.**

There's an extra inducement to join Facebook – each week until the end of July *iTunes* is offering a time-limited free download from one of the artists performing at the festival,

As in previous years, performances will be recorded and made available for purchase through *iTunes*. In addition, some gigs will be broadcast on ITV1, ITV2, XFM, Capital Radio, Choice FM or Heart. ●

# Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

Apple is a bellwether of the Nasdaq and a high beta one at that, meaning high risk or, to be more accurate, more volatile than the market. If a stock is correlated it will jiggle in the same direction as the market.

Apple is correlated and high beta, so when the market went off a cliff in September so did Apple. Now the rally is on, Apple has dashed back and just pushed past the index's performance since the 'beginning of the end' in the late days of August 2008.

The credit crunch is over and the world economy is liable to boom because of the government cash pumped into the system. This will lead to inflation, which is good for the makers of cool consumer goods.

In a couple of years when high inflation creates a sharp tightening of liquidity through higher interest rates, the bad times will roll again, but that's too far in the future for investors to care. Barring disaster, Apple will likely ride high with the market.

**Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVEN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.**

**>> TECH NEWS**

# Europe slams Intel

## Apple chip supplier hit with €1 billion anti-trust fine

The European Commission has slapped Intel with a €1.06-billion fine and a demand it ceases what European regulators see as a pattern of anti-trust violations designed to exclude competitors from the market.

Regulators ordered Intel to immediately halt using its sales tactics, which have prevented AMD from securing a larger slice of the industry.

These include provision of price discounts to companies, including Acer, Dell, HP, Lenovo and NEC, in exchange for buying all or almost all their chips from Intel. Regulators claimed Intel has also paid manufacturers to stop or delay launch of AMD-based computers.

EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said: "Intel has harmed millions of European consumers by deliberately acting to keep competitors out of the market for computer chips for many years."

Intel will appeal the ruling and takes "strong exception" to the decision, CEO Paul Otellini said. "It ignores the reality of a highly competitive microprocessor market… There has been absolutely zero harm to consumers."

AMD disagrees. "After an exhaustive investigation, the EU came to one conclusion: Intel broke the law and consumers were hurt," said Tom McCoy, Executive Vice President for Legal Affairs.

**Intel boss Paul Otellini is angry at Europe's anti-trust action.**

"With this ruling, the industry will benefit from an end to Intel's monopoly-inflated pricing and European consumers will enjoy greater choice, value and innovation," McCoy continued.

McCoy also told CNET that Intel and Apple reached a deal in 2005 that made Intel Apple's exclusive chip supplier. "My guess is that Intel asked for and won exclusivity in return for the help they gave Apple to port," he said.

Intel spokeswoman Claudine Mangano countered the Apple deal was won through the merits of Intel's technology. ●

## >> APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

**MACFORMAT ISSUE 211**
**22 July**
Watch out for the next packed issue of the UK's most popular Mac magazine - the Apple reviews, news and tips.

**IBC, Amsterdam**
**11-15 September**
Europe's biggest event for professionals in video, broadcasting, TV and electronic content creation.

**TOTAL PRINT! EXPO, London**
**20-22 October**
International exhibition dedicated to pros in the print and reprographic industries.

**GAMES CONVENTION ONLINE, Leipzig**
**31 July - 2 August**
Focused on online gaming. Will iPhone's ascendancy see developers reveal new socially connected titles this year?

**THE MUSIC SHOW, Dublin**
**3-4 October**
Ireland's leading music and technology event at The RDS Dublin offers key industry speakers and the latest technological innovation.

**MACWORLD CONFERENCE AND EXPO, San Francisco**
**9-13 February 2010**
Apple may have abandoned this event, but there will still be plenty of products on show for all Mac fans.

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# Win! Wacom Cintiq 12WX!

A brand-new, top-of-the-range graphics tablet could be yours

For those of you who use serious art applications on your Mac, you need a graphics tablet. And we have one the best ones on the market to give away: the Wacom Cintiq 12WX.

Boasting a built-in 31cm TFT display, the Cintiq 12WX enables you to see what you're drawing or touching up under your virtual pen and on the screen. The 12WX offers 1,024 pressure levels on the pen tip and eraser, so it feels natural to use – you can even rotate it to find a comfortable working position. Ten programmable ExpressKeys provide quick access to modifiers, keyboard shortcuts and pop-up menus, while two finger-sensitive Touch Strips make it easy to zoom, scroll or change brush size.

Measuring 40.5x27x1.7cm, the Wacom Cintiq 12WX easily packs away into your laptop bag. Its display boasts a 1,280x800 resolution, a 16:10 aspect ratio and 16.7 million colours.

For more information on this and all Wacom products, go to **www.wacom-europe.com**.

## The question

We have one Wacom Cintiq 12WX to give away. To stand a chance of winning this excellent prize, just answer this question correctly:

**How many colours can the Wacom Cintiq 12WX display?**

*A) 16.7*
*B) 16.7 thousand*
*C) 16.7 million*

## HOW TO ENTER

- To enter this competition, text WACOM, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
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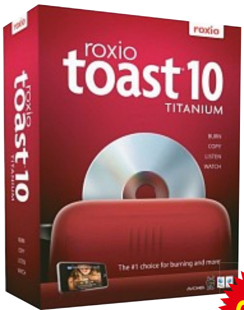

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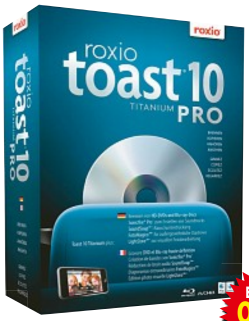

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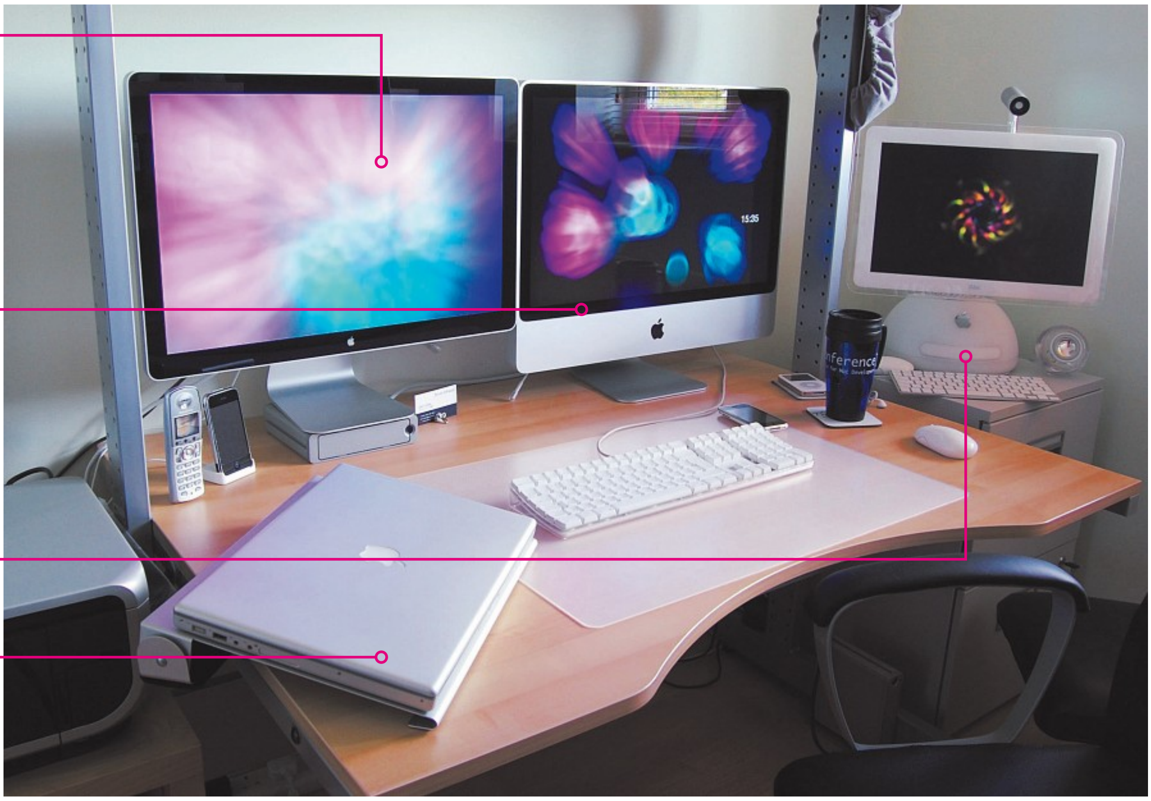
# Me&MyMac

## MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

**>>CONTACT US**
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**



**Apple LED Cinema Display**
This is the first of Apple's desktop displays to use an LED backlight; it looks great!

**Apple iMac 24-inch**
Though few people take advantage of it, recent iMac models have been able to power a second display.

**Apple iMac 15-inch**
This well-loved iMac G4 has plenty of fans here at *MacFormat,* too, though John has now outgrown it.

**Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch**
Though superseded by the 'unibody' models, this MacBook Pro still cuts it.

**>>PROFILE**

**Name:** John S Eddie
**Occupation:** Software Engineer at Zicron Software
**Been using a Mac for:** More than five years
**Favourite hardware:** Apple iMac G4
**Favourite software:** So much to choose from, but probably TextMate

> "When I saw how elegant the OS was, I bought an iMac G4 and have never looked back"

There's no denying that while the Mac is a great platform for the technophobic amongst us, it's also a phenomenal choice for the discerning technophile. As is so often the way, developer John S Eddie was turned onto the Mac by word of mouth. "A friend of mine had recently purchased a Power Mac," he says. "He was raving about the great user experience and the fact it was based on UNIX. When I saw how elegant and beautiful the operating system was, plus the fact I could drop straight into a UNIX shell, I bought an iMac G4 and have never looked back."

"As a software engineer developing mainly for Mac and iPhone, I use my iMac for working in the office and my MacBook Pro for when I need to work out of the office. The Cinema Display is really useful for having a lot of information on the screen at the same time. The Mac mini is a company server for revision control, contiguous integration and various other tasks. Reliability and productivity are a big reason for using Macs.

"Apart from developing and surfing the web I am a heavy user of *iTunes*. So much goes through *iTunes* these days: Apple TV, iPhone, music, movies, applications, podcasts. I mainly use the Apple TV for movies and podcasts but I also listen to music and view photos with it. I bought the Apple TV so I could watch movies and podcasts on a television rather than a computer screen. The iMac G4 is used more by my girlfriend than me these days.

"I have a host of apps that I use on the iPhone and also use it for making phone calls and listening to music. My iPod 4G is pretty much permanently connected to the stereo in the car."

It probably comes as no surprise to hear someone who develops for the iPhone talking the little device up, but we agree with John when he says: "I think the iPhone is the beginning of a new mobile computing era. It provides such a rich environment on such a small mobile device. I find it useful to have access to information anywhere – even at home when I would normally use the computer."

Here's to a mobile future, John, powered by everything Apple! ●

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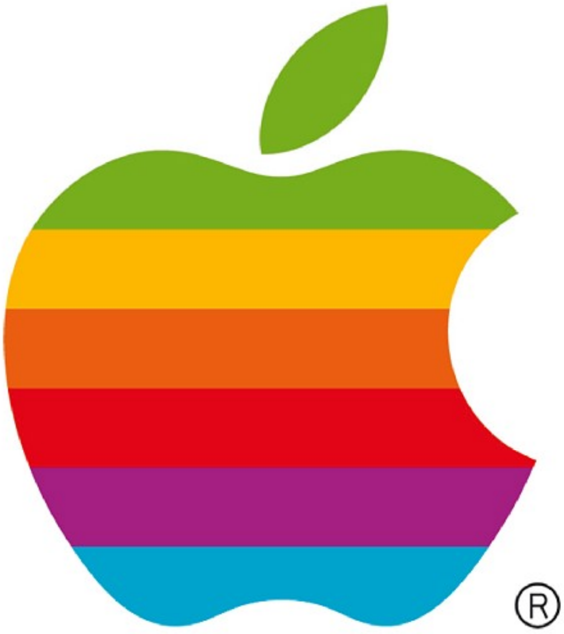

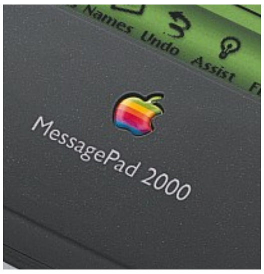

Macintosh Classic

**ABOVE & LEFT:** Janoff's approach to design informed the Apple logo: "A good design has to communicate - people shouldn't have to work hard to get what you're trying to say visually."

**RIGHT:** Apple's logo revisions still retain the silhouette of Janoff's original work.

# I use my Mac for logo design

**Craig Grannell** talks to Rob Janoff, designer of the original multicoloured Apple logo

## >>PROFILE

**Name:** Rob Janoff
**Location:** Chicago, USA
**Occupation:** Advertising art director/graphic designer
**System(s):** PowerBook G4, running Mac OS X 10.5.6
**Web:** www.robjanoff.com

**MacFormat: What do you use Macs for?**
**Rob Janoff:** Graphic design, presentations and the daily business of life. What's weird is that in 1977, when introduced to the concept of a PC, I thought it was nonsense that anyone would do the applications we were promoting. But that was the Apple II and this is a Mac. You really had to be into computing to do household finances on an Apple II, but the Mac is much more intuitive, and I can't imagine life without mine. This hit me yesterday as I was cooking, reading a recipe from the screen!

**MF: How did you approach designing the Apple logo?**
**RJ:** I bought a bunch of apples, put them in a bowl and drew them for a week or so to simplify the shape. The bite is about scale and the common experience of biting into an apple. It was a happy accident that 'byte' is a computer term, and there's no truth to 'biting from the fruit of knowledge' symbolism myths!

**MF: Why did you add the coloured stripes?**
**RJ:** I didn't have much of a formal brief, other than 'don't make it cute', but I knew Apple Computer's selling points, one of the biggest being colour capability. There's no hidden meaning behind the colours used – colour bars on a monitor became the stripes, and the colour order, I'm sorry to say, had no particular grand plan other than I liked the colours there! And, of course, the green stripe would be at the top, where the leaf is.

**MF: How does it feel to have created such a recognisable, versatile, long-lasting design?**
**RJ:** It's almost an out-of-body experience when the logo pops into my field of vision unexpectedly. Although the logo has changed over the years, it's still the same basic shape and concept I designed more than 30 years ago. It's kind of like watching your kids grow up and do really well!

**MF: What do you think about Apple's changes to your logo?**
**RJ:** It's all about growing up - everything goes through changes as it ages. Logos often need to say different things as they age, and the Apple logo has been able to keep up with the times. I'm just glad it's in such capable hands. ●

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**When's it due?** It's out now.

**Why are we excited?** Make your Skype video calls from anywhere in the house – and you don't even have to be in front of your Mac – all you need is a wireless or Ethernet internet connection. Just don't answer it naked…

### ▶ Solar-Powered Gramo Speakers

**£TBA** **www.tinyurl.com/o38cnz**

**What is it?** A set of solar-powered speakers that folds away for storage and transport.

**When's it due?** They're not yet available commercially.

**Why are we excited?** You can carry them around in your back pocket, before unfolding them to listen to your tunes. They're iPod and iPhone-compatible, and store energy in an internal battery so the music doesn't stop when the sun goes down. It could well be the last word in cool!

### ▲ Tonium Pacemaker 60GB

**£369** **www.pacemaker.net**

**What is it?** A pocket-sized portable music player allowing you to DJ any time and anywhere.

**When's it due?** It's out now.

**Why are we excited?** With two individual digital audio players, Pacemaker lets you mix tracks and match beats just like a normal DJ. Use effects, filters and loops to create your own sounds, and share your mixes with others using the *Pacemaker Editor* software on your Mac. Could this do for digital DJing what the iPod did for digital music?

## ▼ Denon DP-200USB

**£245** **www.tinyurl.com/r5sjlk**

**What is it?** A turntable that converts your vinyl to MP3.

**When's it due?** Out now.

**Why are we excited?** With this device, you can revive your old LP record collection by converting your vinyl albums to MP3s. They're saved directly onto a USB stick, ready for transfer to your Mac and iPod. The bundled software is PC-only, but it's not essential.

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Apr 21, 2009

The Washington Post

Kindle Edition, © 2009 The Washington Post Company

An Army Takeover Quells Violence in Mexico

By Steve Fainaru and William Booth | 1948 words

Photos By Sarah L. Voisin -- The Washington Post

Military police stand outside a Ciudad Juarez bar after an execution thought to be drug-related. President Felipe Calder?n sent thousands of soldiers to crush drug gangs there.

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico -- A few months ago, the mayor of the most violent city in Mexico would sometimes sleep across the border in El Paso for safety. Now, with the military firmly in control of Ciudad Juarez, an entire day can pass without a single drug-related killing.

Violence has plummeted here since President Felipe Calderón dispatched thousands of soldiers to take over public security, a strategy designed to crush the drug gangs that turned Juarez into a symbol of lawlessness.

In the first two months of this year, 434 people were killed in drug violence in the city, accounting for nearly half of all homicides nationwide. After 5,000 additional troops were sent to Juarez in early March, the number of deaths dropped to 51 last month. Twenty-two people have died in drug violence so far in April.

The military occupation of Juarez, an industrial city of 1.3 million across the Rio Grande from El Paso, is the most extreme example of Calderón's high-risk strategy of using the army to confront Mexico's powerful drug cartels. Besieged city officials signed an agreement surrendering responsibility for civilian law enforcement to the

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## ▲ Amazon Kindle DX

**$489 (£340)** **www.tinyurl.com/dne97t**

**What is it?** It's a new, deluxe version of Amazon's Kindle e-book reader.

**When's it due?** Available to preorder now. In America, that is, and unfortunately not over here.

**Why are we excited?** Its 9.7-inch screen makes it ideal for viewing papers, mags and documents. You can look at a page without having to scroll. However, there's no colour screen and no news on a UK release.

## ▶ ALBUM Portable Digital Photo Gallery 4GB

**£180** **www.tinyurl.com/dnjav7**

**What is it?** More than just a digital photo frame, this is a digital photo album, too.

**When's it due?** It's available now.

**Why are we excited?** It brings the carry-around convenience of printed photos into the digital realm. Available in a natural or black-leather finish, ALBUM can be loaded with up to 40,000 photos. Carry it around with you, or fold out the built-in stand and use it as a digital photo frame. It resizes photos on the fly, can be expanded to up to 20GB using SD cards and offers a 7-inch screen. ●

# Feedback

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

## >> TWEETS THIS MONTH

Have an iPhone? Grab a shot of its homescreen, and post it to @MacFormat with #iphonehome tag.

**CraigGrannell@MacFormat**
Interesting how many people remove Phone from the dock - iPhone ≠ 'just a phone'. #iphonehome **http://twitpic.com/61mtd**

**minibtweet@MacFormat**
I didn't realise you could replace dock icons! This is interesting. Very good idea, like to follow this :)

**Follow what we're up to each month at Twitter.com/MacFormat**

## Moving VHS to digital

**I changed from Windows and a PC to a brand-new Mac, 12 months ago, and it was the best thing I have done. I started reading *MacFormat* at the same time, and it has been a great help for getting my confidence up to use the Mac; I look forward to reading it every month.**

**However, the problem I have is that for many years I have recorded my memories onto an 8mm analog format. Unfortunately, my analog camera no longer works and now I have got a new Canon MD 120 digital one. Am I able to digitise the old tapes, edit them and get them onto a DVD disc, using my Mac?**

**George Astbury**

**MacFormat replies:** That's a great idea for a feature George – we'll rustle up a tutorial for you next month, so look out for it!

## Go Refurb and save pounds

**I read Nik Howarth's letter in the June 2009 issue about Apple's prices being too high for him and, as a result, he bought his 'new' iMac on eBay. Although it is too late to help him now, others should go first to the refurb store on the Apple site, where you will find new iMac's etc for a more affordable price!**

**Jim Ormiston**

**MacFormat replies:** Always a good tip Jim, and something we keep banging on about frequently. You can visit the Refurb store by going to store.apple.com/uk and typing the word "refurb" into the search box. All Apple refurb products come with a 1-year warranty and are fully tested. Apple UK has also just announced its Back to School campaign, which runs up until 8 September 2009, offering a rebate of up to £145 off a new Mac and iPod. See http://tinyurl.com/mg8e2m for details.

## No more Tiny URLs, please!

**Can you please, please stop using Tiny URLs in *MacFormat*? I know on the face of it this seems a strange request, but as an IT support professional I know first-hand about the problems these are causing for**

## >> STAR LETTER / Apple's pricing dilemma

**Congratulations on a very good May issue that was packed with information. Can't wait until the June issue appears.**

**It seems to me that Apple is facing the horns of a dilemma: reduce prices and margins to increase market share, or persevere with the innovative road map and ditch the lower-priced machines that may not have lasting market appeal.**

**Such a strategy would look like Apple abandoning much of the middle ground, but I doubt this is Apple's intention. There could be new products on the way later this year that might herald a new range of computers at a lower price point (and are different to anything Apple has offered before). They probably won't be cheap exactly but they could be both eminently portable and highly desirable. The appeal of the traditional laptop could become eroded by such products. We can only wait and see.**

**Alan Williams**

**MacFormat replies:** Speaking at a press conference back in October last year, before his medical leave of absence, Apple CEO Steve Jobs commented on the netbook market, saying "It's such an early developing market. There's a long way to go before the optimum form factor and user experience is delivered," he said.

Let's hope this means that Apple does actually have something planned in this area, but we suspect you're right about the price – it certainly won't be cheap!

### STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

Looking for a bargain iMac? Don't forget to check out Apple's Refurb store.

many of our customers and know that they can have the opposite effect than they were designed for.

People are often put off from even visiting them at all, as they have no idea whose website you are sending them to or where they are supposed to end up. A simple mistype of one character in the address and instead of getting a '404 Page not found', they are likely to end up on some different kind of website. When they get there they have no way of knowing whether it was the site you intended them to visit or not, since they don't have an address to match.

More and more hackers and people wanting more traffic to their websites are setting up a myriad of Tiny URLs, which are similar to ones they see published, to catch all the traffic from mistypes. As they have been redirected the user would not even be aware that they had mistyped the URL as it would have gone by now, but could have finished up at an illegal adult site and caused all sorts of trouble.

Yes, it may be handy to have a short URL in your magazine, but to be honest the downside of using these can be dire, especially for your reputation. I would rather have a longer link that I know exactly where it is going before I go there and so would also know if I had been redirected or ended up somewhere not intended.

**Richard Hillsdon**

**MacFormat replies:** You raise some legitimate security concerns with TinyURLs, Richard. We tend to only use them sparingly anyway, in cases where the original URL is so long it wouldn't be practical to print it. For example, in the reply to the previous letter we used a TinyURLs because we wanted to take our readers directly to the offer mentioned, which is buried deep within a corporate website.

For this reason we'd like to keep using TinyURLs, but there are two possible solutions to the problem. Either we add the word "preview" to the TinyURL, which takes you to a page telling you which website you are about to visit before you go there. So, for example, http://tinyurl.com/36nunm would become http://preview.tinyurl.com/36nunm. Or, our readers can turn on the Preview Feature at http://tinyurl.com, which means that any TinyURL typed always takes you to a preview page first, rather than straight there, so you know exactly where you're going.

Adding the word "preview" each time we print a TinyURLs in *MacFormat* seems a bit cumbersome. Therefore, we recommend that if readers are concerned they simply visit the TinyURL site and turn the automatic preview feature on. ●

## »CONTACT US

Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

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# The iTunes & iPod Handbook

MacFormat's essential guide shows you all the tips and tricks you'll need

Mac presents
**iTunes & iPod HANDBOOK**

For a complete guide to the iPod as well as iTunes get *MacFormat's Essential iTunes & iPod Handbook*, available on July 15 from WHSmith, Tesco, Easons & Borders, or online from www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/macformatpresents

There may come a time when your iPod stops behaving and needs to be rebooted and tinkered with. *MacFormat*'s special-edition sister-magazine, *The Essential iTunes & iPod Handbook*, is released on July 15. And to celebrate we've given you a litter taster with a handy iPod cheatsheet, below.

The most useful command here is hard reset. If the iPod freezes, simultaneously press the buttons shown for a few seconds – you may need to slide the Hold switch to Hold and then back again first – and your iPod will shut itself down and start booting up again from scratch.

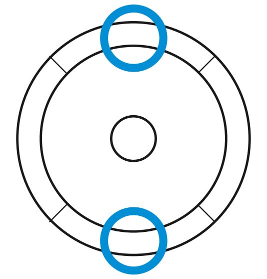
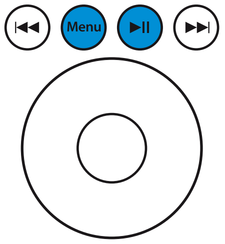
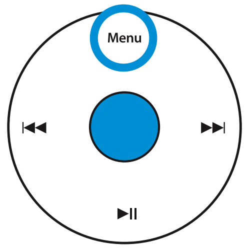
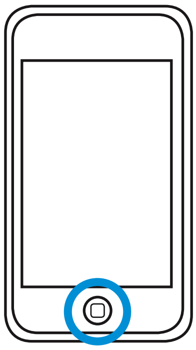
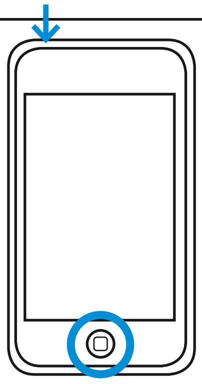
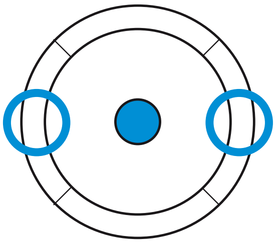
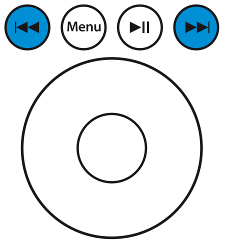
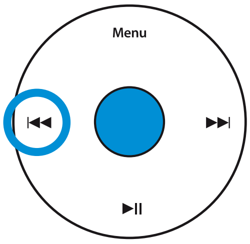
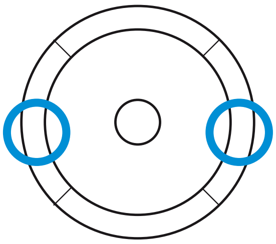
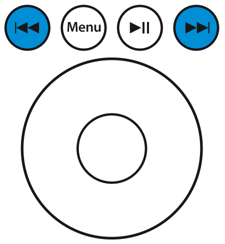
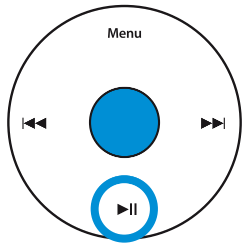
There are a couple of extra handy tricks, though. The iPod classic (and earlier) and iPod nanos can mount as dumb drives on your Mac's desktop, and you can use the Disk mode button combination to force this if you want to rescue files you've stored on your iPod. You have to perform a hard reset first, then switch to the button combination for Disk mode.

It's the same thing for Diagnostic mode: hard reset and then use the button combo below. Diagnostic mode is a very handy feature to know. In both cases, do a hard reset to switch your iPod back to normal.

For the iPod touch and iPhone force quitting and resetting should get you out of most scrapes.

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

**You can now get to grips with your iPod and show it who's boss!**

| Operation | 1st & 2nd gen | 3rd gen | Click wheel | iPod touch |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Hard reset** |  |  |  | <br>**Force quit**<br>↓<br><br>**Hard reset** |
| **Diagnostic mode** |  |  |  | |
| **Disk mode** |  |  |  | |

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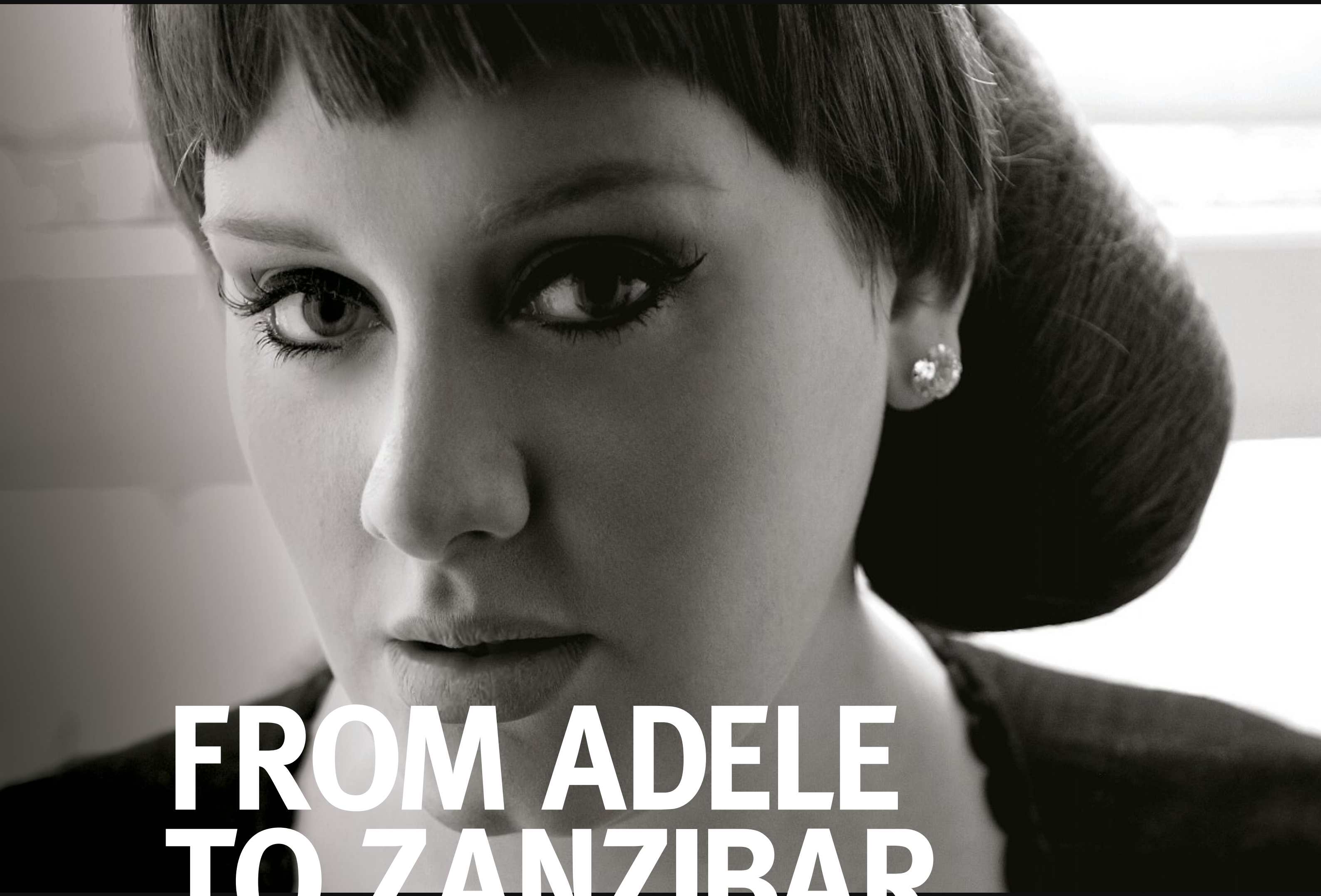

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## MacFormat investigates

# How can I make a media centre with a Mac mini?

In the quest to put a Mac in every room of his house, **Christopher Phin** finds out if the Mac mini is ready for its living room debut

Apple would have you believe that the Apple TV is the perfect media centre; *MacFormat* disagrees. Though the Apple TV is sleek and comparatively cheap, it's too restrictive. It's pretty much a closed box and you can't do anything with your films, television shows and music apart from play them back. Oh sure, it has an HDMI port that makes it easy to hook it up to your modern television, but that doesn't, in our book, make up for the pain of being pushed towards buying your content through the iTunes Store.

Worst of all, it doesn't do the one thing its name suggests it should; you can't use it to watch regular television. Yes, you can buy TV shows from the iTunes Store to play back, but you can't simply switch it on to watch the news or to activate the electronic nanny that is CBeebies.

> *"A Mac mini is a proper little Mac, ready to be expanded, added to and turbo-boosted to do everything you need it to"*

No, for our money – and it is a fair chunk of money – you need a Mac mini. It's a proper little Mac, so it's ready to be expanded, added to and turbo-boosted to do everything you need it to. Admittedly, we did give the current models a bit of a kicking in our review, but that was just because they're quite expensive for what you get; they're capable little machines, and we think buying an Apple TV is a false economy.

### The hardware

So, let's get started. First, you'll need a Mac mini. Don't be tempted to buy a second-hand G4 model; though the processor will be perfectly capable of playing back standard-definition video, the PowerPC models lacked the unobtrusive infrared receiver tucked in at the corner of the optical drive slit. While it's possible to add an after-market IR receiver, we think it's not worth the hassle; go for a Mac mini powered by Intel. The original 1.5GHz Core Solo model will struggle even with 720p HD video, but either of the current models will handle standard definition and high definition just fine. There are some detailed recommended system requirements for H.264-encoded movies at www.apple.com/quicktime/guide/hd/recommendations.html.

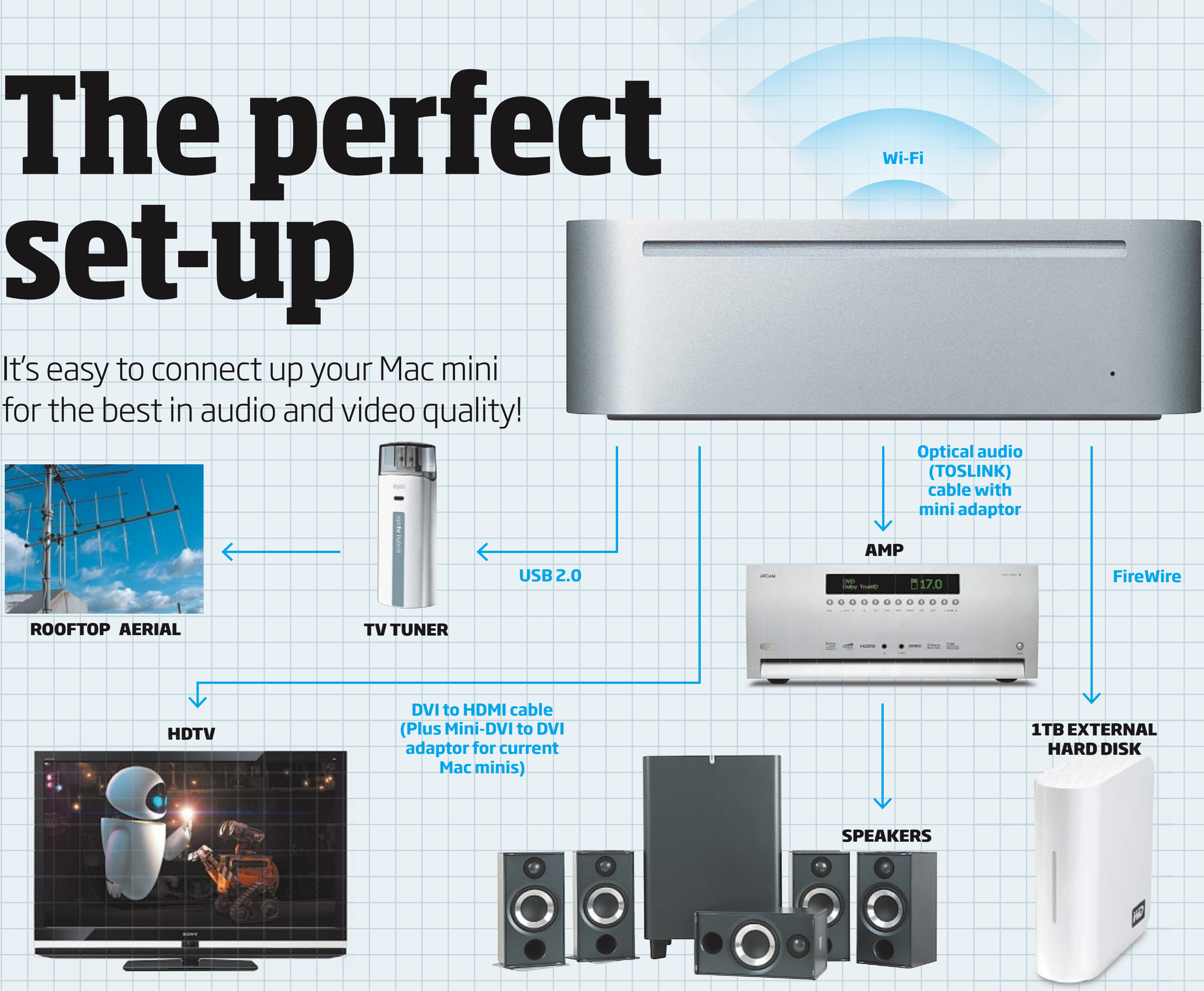
Next, you'll need a screen, and a way to connect the two. In theory, you can connect a Mac mini up even to a non-HD television,

**RIGHT:** **A Mac mini is a much more flexible addition to your living room than an Apple TV.**

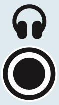
Photography: Phillip Sowels

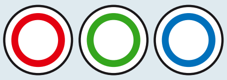
# The perfect set-up

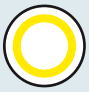
It's easy to connect up your Mac mini for the best in audio and video quality!


Wi-Fi
Optical audio (TOSLINK) cable with mini adaptor
FireWire
AMP
USB 2.0
ROOFTOP AERIAL
TV TUNER
HDTV
DVI to HDMI cable (Plus Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor for current Mac minis)
SPEAKERS
1TB EXTERNAL HARD DISK

## » KNOW YOUR PORTS / Getting the right AV connections


3.5mm mini-jack


Component video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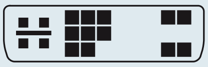
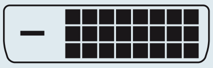
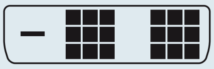
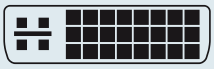

DVI-A


DVI-D (Dual Link)


DVI-D (Single Link)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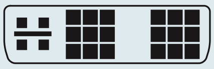
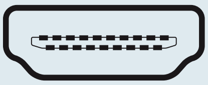

DVI-I (Single Link)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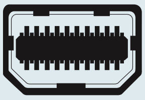
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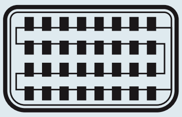
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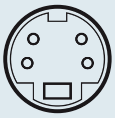
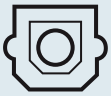
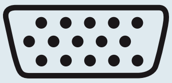

S-Video

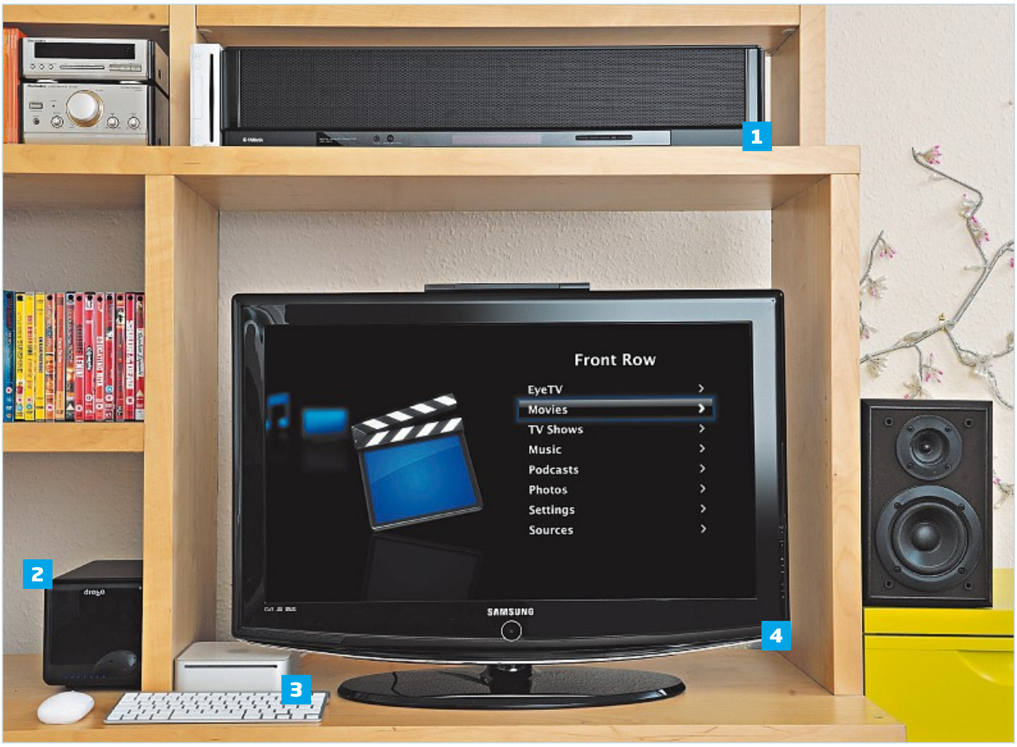

TOSLINK


VGA

If that proliferation of DVI flavours scares you, we're just being thorough. Most Macs tote the analogue and digital-capable DVI-I Single Link connection.

either over Composite or S-Video connections – you'd need the £15 Apple DVI to Video Adapter for this – but you'd find it difficult to make out the text of the Mac OS X interface. (By all means start with the Mac mini hooked up to your old TV; it'll be fine for watching video, and you'll be able to connect it to a better HD model when you upgrade, letting you stagger your outlay.)

Some modern flatscreens have a VGA – more technically called D-sub (DE15) – port, just like a monitor, but that's an analogue connection, subject to degradation and interference. It's much better to opt for a digital connection. The neatest solution, given the Mac mini's DVI port, would be to find a TV that has DVI-in, but few do. Happily, almost all decent HDTVs will have at least one HDMI port. HDMI carries audio as well as video signals, making it a handy connection standard for AV equipment. But the good news is that the video part of the specification is broadly the same thing as DVI, so you can simply buy a DVI to HDMI cable; XtremeMac makes a perfectly decent one, available for less than £13 on Amazon. The Mac mini will auto-sense the native resolution of the TV.



**[1] A proper 5.1 surround sound system gives you the most immersive experience, but if you're pushed for space, products such as Yamaha's Sound Projectors simulate it by bouncing audio off walls.**

**[2] You'll need a big hard disk to store all your TV recordings and DVD rips. This one's a Drobo; slot in up to four drives, and the data gets spread across them all to keep it safe even if one of them fails.**

**[3] The Mac mini is the heart of your media centre set-up, and the current models can handle high-definition video without breaking a sweat.**

**[4] It's worth investing in a decent HDTV with multiple HDMI inputs so you can hook up a Mac mini, PS3 and more with ease.**

## Loud and clear

On the very latest Mac minis, the full-sized DVI port is swapped for two separate ports: a Mini-DVI connection, which you can adapt to full-sized DVI with a £15 adaptor, and a Mini DisplayPort that is, at the moment, a little useless. Although Apple has licensed the Mini DisplayPort connection – and it'll be part of the upcoming DisplayPort 1.2 specification – it's poorly supported by the industry at the moment. One Mini DisplayPort to HDMI adaptor exists, and the only reputable monitor that we know of that uses it natively is Apple's LED Cinema Display. The good news, though, is that with the dual-port Mac minis, you could hook up two displays at once, perhaps using a smaller one as a digital photo frame or RSS headlines display.

*"Next you have to consider audio. Like the rest of Apple's line, the Mac mini's 3.5mm mini-jack audio port has a little trick up its sleeve…"*

Next you have to consider audio. Like the rest of Apple's line, the Mac mini's 3.5mm mini-jack audio port has a little trick up its sleeve. While it's quite happy to output regular analogue audio – ready to be piped into a stereo system's aux input or even a TV if it has one – it doubles as an optical output as well. Optical audio will keep the digital signal pure right up until the very last minute. But, even more importantly, if you're setting up a media centre, the optical out will enable you to play full 5.1 surround sound if you have a compatible amp or speaker system such as Yamaha's YSP-30D sound projector (shown above the screen in the photo) or Logitech's Z-5500 Digital system. It's not a full-sized TOSLINK connection on the Mac mini, though, so you'll need a mini adaptor.

At least, that's the theory. In practice, it's much less clear-cut, and frankly we're hoping that Snow Leopard, the next version of the Mac OS, makes it all much simpler. At the moment, the best way to ensure you receive 5.1 surround is to either buy content from the iTunes Store or, even more reliably, play a DVD using *DVD Player*. However, be warned, *iTunes* and *Front Row* seem to have a problem, especially when it comes to ripped DVDs. There are plenty of proposed solutions offered online, but there doesn't seem to be any one answer that works for everyone. Try searching for 'mac 5.1 surround optical' and giving some of the techniques a go.

## Managing content

Most folks will store their movies, TV shows and music in *iTunes*, and quite right too; it does a sterling job, though you may need a few of Doug's AppleScripts – 'Set Video Kind of Selected' at http://tinyurl.com/6yf6cg is particularly useful – to help make *iTunes* tag your media efficiently.

(Software from www.nullriver.com lets you stream your media to an Xbox or PS3, and Elgato's *EyeConnect* software lets UPnP-aware media streamers access your *iTunes* library.)

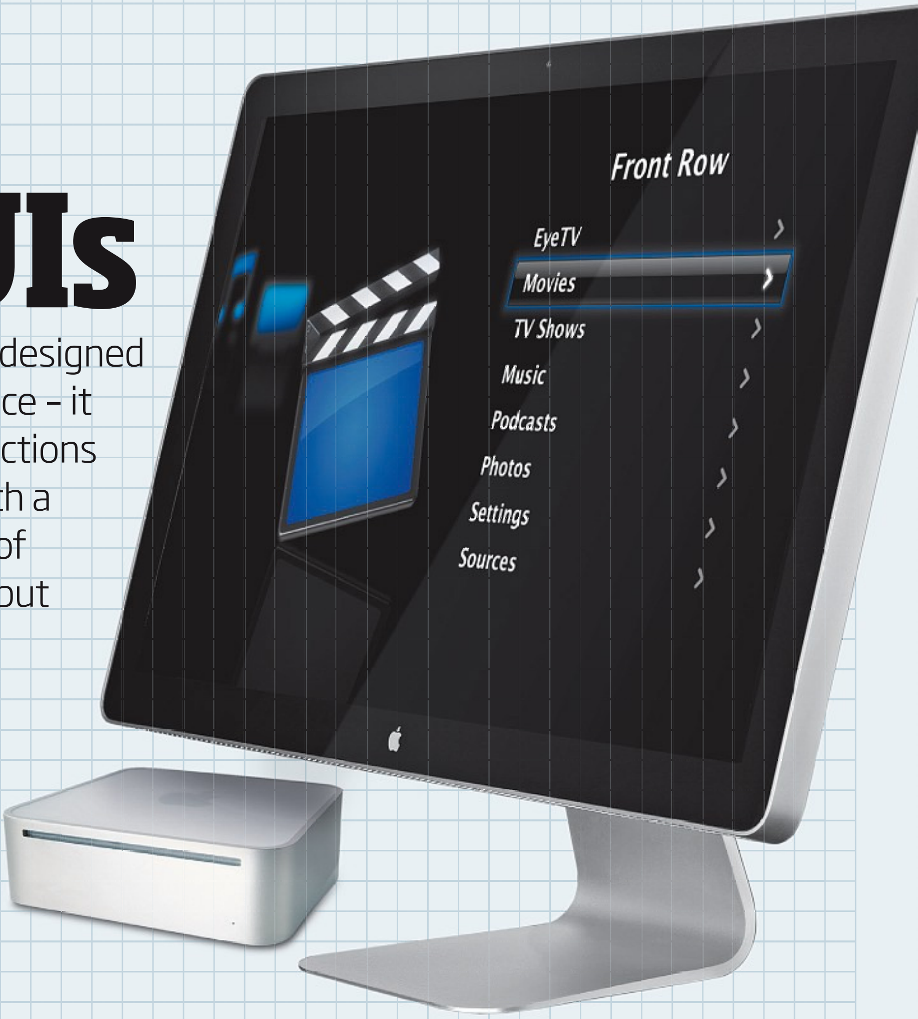
You can then use *Front Row* to navigate this media plus your *iPhoto* pictures. You'll probably want to store your library on a larger external drive, especially if you'll be adding lots of space-hungry video. If you hold down ⌥ as you launch *iTunes* this will then give you the option to create a new library on an external disk, or move your existing one from ~/Music/. Use the very same ⌥ trick to point *iTunes* to the moved library.

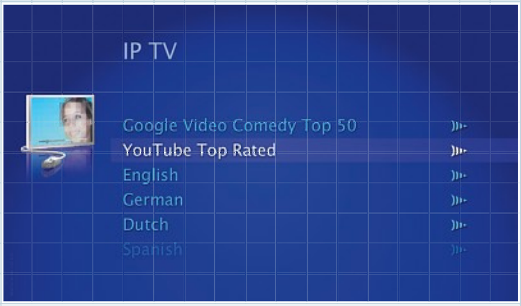
You can buy and rent stuff from the iTunes Store, but it's easy to add your own media. TV tuners powered by Elgato's *EyeTV* or Equinux's *The Tube* let you watch, pause, rewind, record and punt to *iTunes* the same Freeview channels you get on your regular TV.

»

# 10-foot UIs

10-foot UI just refers to an interface designed to be read and used from that distance – it usually means big buttons, basic functions and a focus on simple interaction with a remote control, all from the comfort of your sofa. Apple's own is Front Row, but there are alternatives…


Front Row
EyeTV
Movies
TV Shows
Music
Podcasts
Photos
Settings
Sources

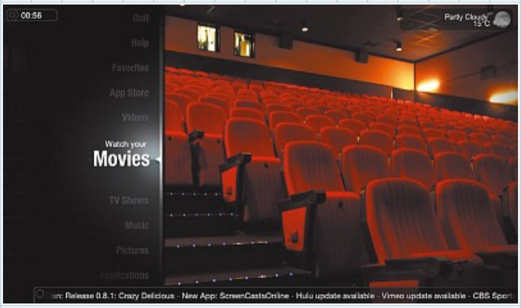

IP TV
Google Video Comedy Top 50
YouTube Top Rated
English
German
Dutch
Spanish

**MediaCentral** www.equinux.com

A few years ago, equinux's brave attempt at making a 10-foot UI was a triumph, pulling together local TV recordings from The Tube, so-called IP TV (such as YouTube streams), pictures, internet radio stations and more, into an easily navigable interface. But the years haven't been kind to it and *MediaCentral* now looks downright weedy next to *Plex*. Not worth €30 (£26).

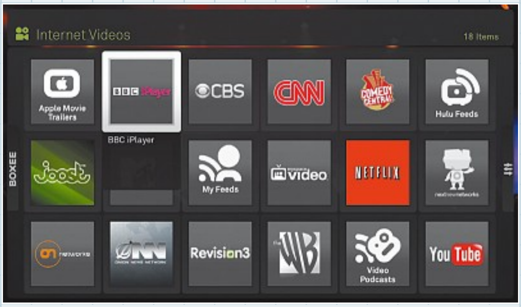
**Front Row** (part of Mac OS X 10.5)

This is Apple's own 10-foot UI. In practical terms, it's little more than a front end for *iTunes*, presenting its library in a way that makes sense for the living room. It has a few other bells and whistles too – it can stream from other libraries on your local network and you can watch movie trailers and pictures from *iPhoto*, but it's inflexible. Unofficial plug-ins such as *PyeTV* are rare.


00:56
Partly Cloudy
15°C
Quit
Help
Favorites
App Store
Videos
Watch your
Movies
TV Shows
Music
Pictures
Applications
Release 0.8.1: Crazy Delicious · New App: ScreenCastsOnline · Hulu update available · Vimeo update available · CBS Sport

**Plex** www.plexapp.com

While *Plex* is visually stunning, its beauty is more than skin deep. As well as being able to gather all your local media into one place – allowing you to add multiple sources, and optionally toddle off to IMDB and the like to pull down synopses, grabs and posters etc – its plug-in architecture actually invites expansion. Add iPlayer and 4oD streams and navigate them from your sofa.


Internet Videos
18 Items
BOXEE
Apple Movie Trailers
BBC iPlayer
CBS
CNN
Comedy Central
Hulu Feeds
Joost
My Feeds
Video
NETFLIX
networks
Revision3
WB
Video Podcasts
You Tube

**Boxee** www.boxee.tv

*Boxee* gets attention, maybe because it's simple to install on Apple TV, as an alternative to its Apple-shipped OS. The Apple TV's 1GHz processor makes it sluggish, though. So, in theory, a Mac mini's a better bet. While *Boxee* is worth investigating it's not as polished as *Plex*. It does iPlayer and has a more net-focussed, social networking vibe to it. Like *Plex*, it's free.

## TAKE CONTROL / Finding the perfect remote for your Mac mini

By this stage, you'll have a remote control for your TV, one for your amp or speaker system, and one for the Mac mini – with, quite possibly, a few 'Wiimotes' and *EyeTV* remotes kicking about, as well. Ditch all that, and get a proper universal remote control. We're not talking about a £15 universal that can replace a lost TV remote; no, we're talking about a single remote that can control multiple devices at once, coordinating them to let you set up your system for different tasks with a single tap.

Here's the old-fashioned way: you want to watch a movie from your *iTunes* collection, so you switch on the TV. It was last used by your son to play PS3, so it's set to the wrong channel; flick through the sources to set it correctly. Next, power on your amp, and set it to the correct input too – you may forget at this point to turn the volume down from its last use during the party, so you may get deafened shortly. Finally, pick up the little white Apple remote, launch *Front Row* and navigate to your movie.

With a multi-remote such as this top-of-the-line Logitech Harmony 1100 – £321, though cheaper models will do the same basic thing – you'd simply press a soft button marked **Watch movie** and all that would be done for you automatically; program these activities on a Mac or PC using bundled software.

You can come at the problem from the other end too, turbo-boosting the abilities of the six-button Apple remote. (If you don't have one, incidentally, they cost £15.) Software such as *Remote Buddy* from **www.iospirit.com** enables you to attach advanced behaviours and macros to its buttons.

And don't feel you have to invest in a wireless keyboard and mouse; if you have an iPhone or iPod touch, buy *Air Mouse Pro* from the App Store; it's only £3.49 and works over your WiFi network to provide a software-based keyboard and trackpad.

Logitech's Harmony 1100 is the daddy of universal remotes.

And if you're happy to live on the wrong side of the law, it's easy to rip your own DVDs using software such as *Handbrake*, and to download content using *BitTorrent* clients and tracker sites, though of course we don't condone this. The multi-codec tool *Perian* (http://perian.org) is invaluable for dealing with odd video formats. See p51 for more on converting and preparing video formats.

### Watching

Once you've got all your media in *iTunes*, launch *Front Row* to navigate it. Even though Apple blocks third parties (such as *Elgato*) from *Front Row*, the freeware *PyeTV* (http://code.google.com/p/pyetv) lets you watch your *EyeTV* recordings without having to export them to *iTunes* first. (Part of the joy of recording TV on your Mac is that you can export the recordings to other devices, or even burn them to DVD.)

With a little planning and a modest outlay, a Mac mini can serve up all kinds of movie and TV content.

> *"The Mac mini makes a good media centre, but it won't be welcome in living rooms until Apple embraces free-to-air TV broadcasts…"*

*Front Row* isn't the last word, though; check out the alternatives in '10-foot UIs' on the page opposite. Also, you need to use *iTunes* directly for *iTunes* DJ-fuelled parties, and on-demand catch-up services from the BBC, ITV, Channels 4, Five and more require or benefit from regular mouse-and-keyboard access in *Safari*. (Thankfully, the main terrestrial channels offer some kind of *Flash* or *Silverlight*-powered streaming service that works on a Mac, and technically, you'll need a TV licence if you watch live TV online.)

Of course, you don't have to watch mainstream media. There's plenty of video on YouTube, and the open source *Miro* app – a cross between a video-optimised RSS reader, *BitTorrent* client, online television guide and video player – is a fantastic source of video.

### The final analysis

The Mac mini makes a good media centre, but it won't be welcome in living rooms until Apple embraces free-to-air TV broadcasts, clarifies 5.1 surround sound, lets third parties into an overhauled *Front Row*, and blesses the mini with an HDMI port. As it stands, it's good rather than great, but with a little coaxing, you can bend it to your will. ●

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SHORTCUT SPECIAL!
50
essential Mac
timesavers

Illustration by MagicTorch

## **Rob Buckley** shows you how to become a speed demon on your Mac with this timesaving guide

We all want our Macs to be labour-saving rather than labour-causing devices. Yet, even if you've been using a Mac for a long time, the thought, "There has to be a better of way of doing this," will probably come to mind on a daily basis. Whether you're undertaking a repetitive task that has to be done often or just a one-off job that seems to be more complicated than necessary, it's your time that's being wasted and we're here to put an end to it.

Over the next few pages, we're going to show you 50 brilliant ways you can make life with your Mac that much easier – and we're not going to use *Automator* once.

We'll ease you in with ten great ways to work faster with OS X and *Finder*, and then move on to *iLife*, with tips for *iPhoto*, *iMovie*, *iDVD* and *GarageBand*.

For anyone who owns a Mac, keyboard shortcuts are a definite must-know. Use them and you'll be able to cut hours of unproductive ferreting through menus from your working week. We have 20 of the top timesaving keyboard shortcuts that work in virtually every application.

Then, to wrap things up, we'll give you ten ways to make *Safari* and *Mail* even more powerful, either through built-in functions or with add-ons. Here's to getting things done faster! »

**» ON THE DISC**
**Find many featured apps on your disc**

# Working faster in OS X

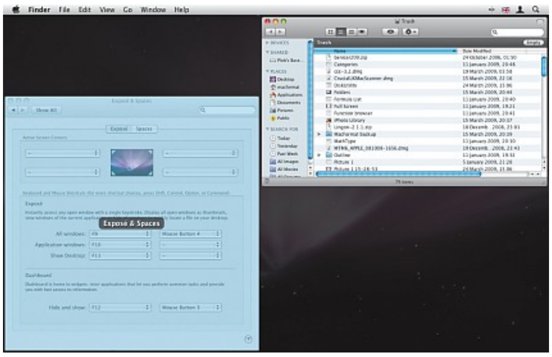
Top ways to work faster with everything on your Mac

## 01 Making aliases

Aliases are useful files that point to other files somewhere on your Mac. Certain applications also require files and folders to be in certain places, but if you don't want them there you can always move the items and create aliases to them. The simplest way to create an alias is to hold down ⌘+⌥ and drag the item to the new location. Coincidentally, you can use that key combination to drag an item onto a Dock application icon to force the item to open in that application, even if it wouldn't normally be allowed.

## 02 Use Exposé more

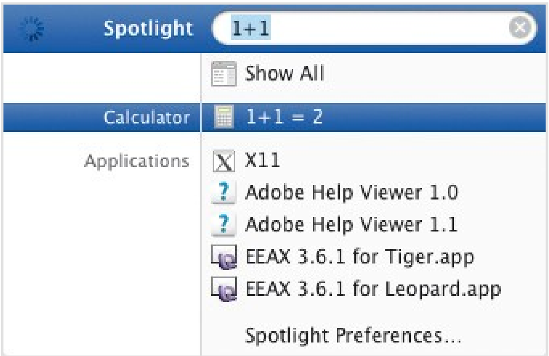
*Exposé* (activated using the Exposé & Spaces pane in Systems Preferences) is a great, timesaving way to switch between windows in any of the applications you're running. They can be triggered using the screen corners, hot keys (like F9) or the *Exposé* application in the Applications folder. But if you use your Desktop for storing items and shortcuts, *Exposé* also provides a handy way to get straight to your Desktop without minimising all the windows its hidden under. You can even drag and drop in *Exposé*. Select some text, or an image, then start to drag and drop it, then hit F9. Now hover it over the application you want to drop it in. After a few seconds *Exposé* will make it the foremost application, so you can drop it there.


Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Exposé & Spaces
Exposé Spaces
Exposé & Spaces

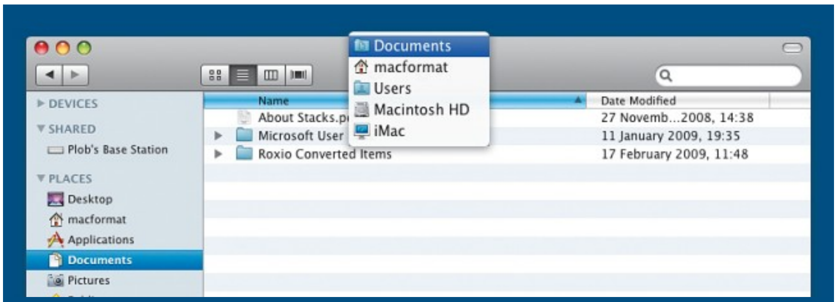
**Exposé lets you drag and drop between windows without having to move them around.**

## 03 Spotlight tricks

Spotlight's the best tool around for finding things on your Mac, but sometimes it gives you more than you can deal with. The Spotlight pane in System Preferences lets you remove files you're probably never going to want to include in searches, such as System Preferences and Fonts, and lets you reorder categories so the items you want appear at the top. But Spotlight is also a great way to launch an application quickly, simply by typing its name then hitting ↩. It also has a few secrets for those in a mathematical hurry – type a simple calculation into it and Spotlight will give you the answer straight away.


Spotlight
1+1
Show All
Calculator
1+1 = 2
Applications
X11
Adobe Help Viewer 1.0
Adobe Help Viewer 1.1
EEAX 3.6.1 for Tiger.app
EEAX 3.6.1 for Leopard.app
Spotlight Preferences…

**Launch apps quickly with Spotlight or work out simple sums.**

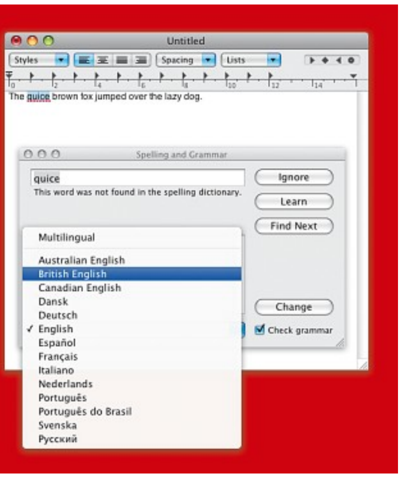

Documents
macformat
Users
Macintosh HD
iMac
DEVICES
SHARED
Plob's Base Station
PLACES
Desktop
macformat
Applications
Documents
Pictures
Name
Date Modified
About Stacks.pdf
27 Novemb…2008, 14:38
Microsoft User Data
11 January 2009, 19:35
Roxio Converted Items
17 February 2009, 11:48

## 04 Proxy icons

The icon you see at the top of every window is a 'proxy' that performs loads of functions. If you click on it then drag and drop to another window or icon, it'll be as though you're dragging and dropping the files. You can hold down ⌥ while you're doing it to copy the item, or hold down ⌘ as you click on the icon to get a menu of all folders enclosing the current item – selecting one will open it in *Finder*.

## 05 Dynamic spellchecks

Save time on spellchecks by getting OS X to check as you type, using Apple's built-in dictionary. The **Check Spelling While Typing** and **Check Grammar With Spelling** options are available in the Edit > Spelling menu in most apps. Another great tip is to bring up the spellchecker using ⌘+;, then set the dictionary to **British English** rather than the standard (American) English. It's surprising how many people don't know that this can be done.

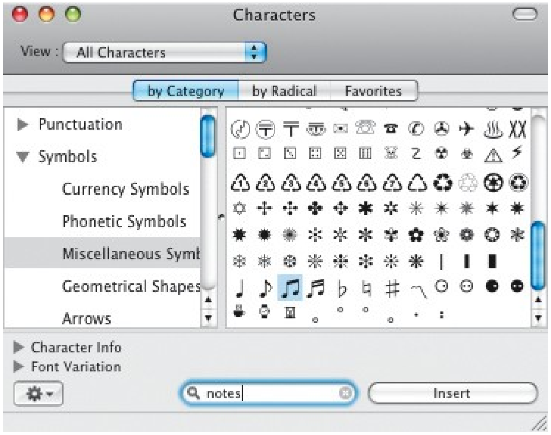

Untitled
Styles
Spacing
Lists
Spelling and Grammar
Ignore
Learn
Find Next
Change
Multilingual
Australian English
British English
Canadian English
Dansk
Deutsch
✓ English
Español
Français
Italiano
Nederlands
Português
Português do Brasil
Svenska
Русский

The quice brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.

quice

This word was not found in the spelling dictionary.

☑ Check grammar


Characters
View : All Characters
by Category
by Radical
Favorites
Punctuation
Symbols
Currency Symbols
Phonetic Symbols
Miscellaneous Symb
Geometrical Shapes
Arrows
Character Info
Font Variation
notes
Insert

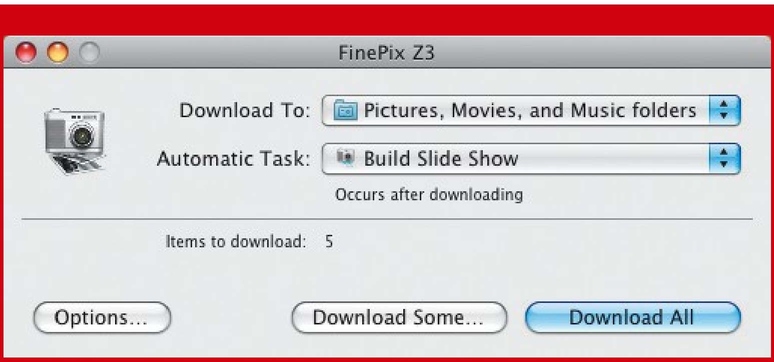
**Go to the search box in the Character Palette and it will provide you with easy access to those hard-to-find characters.**

## 06 Find unusual characters quickly

There are some characters that we all forget the shortcuts for – or maybe we just never knew them. However, they're easily found in the Character Palette; this is available from the Special Characters option at the bottom of the Edit menu of most applications. You can also add it to the Input menu, available from the International pane in System Preferences. Then, either scan through all the available lists, grouped by category, such as punctuation or the language they're used in, or by typing a description of the character into the search box at the bottom.

## 07 Use file shortcuts

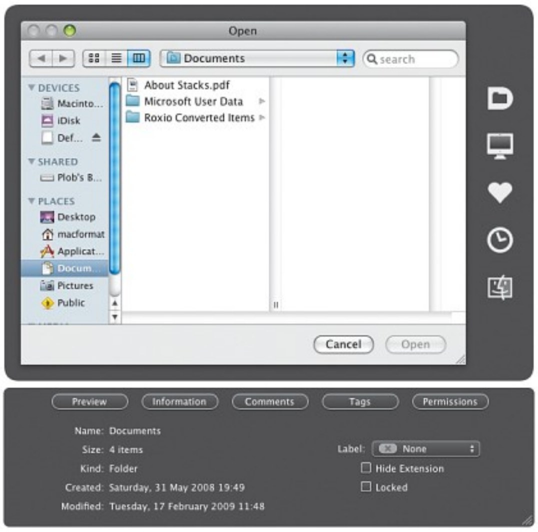
Navigating your Mac for frequently used files takes time. You'll find that dragging folders, disks and servers to the Dock can provide quicker access to their contents, particularly with the List view, selected by clicking and holding down the mouse button on a folder. But the more items you add to the Dock, the more cluttered it becomes. *Finder* windows are only one extra click away and offer an alternative – you can add any item to the *Finder* sidebar by dragging and dropping it, and once that starts to get full, drag items to the toolbar as well.


FinePix Z3
Options...
Download Some...
Download All

Download To: Pictures, Movies, and Music folders
Automatic Task: Build Slide Show
Occurs after downloading
Items to download: 5

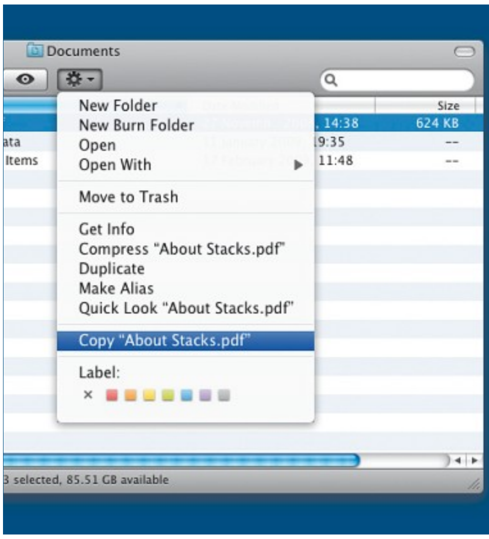
## 08 Faster camera access

While *iPhoto* is great for storing your photos in albums, *Image Capture* lets you automate the import process and gives you access to several 'pro' options. You can create custom icons, embed ColorSync profiles and add information to *Finder* file comments. *Image Capture* (in the **Applications** folder) works with every camera *iPhoto* works with, and when you plug in your camera, it can automatically sort pictures into the **Pictures** folder and movies into the **Movies** folder. It can also create web pages, crop pictures to the right size, open them in another application or run an *Automator* task on your files.


Open
Documents
search
DEVICES
Macinto...
iDisk
Def...
SHARED
Plob's B...
PLACES
Desktop
macformat
Applicat...
Docum...
Pictures
Public
About Stacks.pdf
Microsoft User Data
Roxio Converted Items
Cancel
Open
Preview
Information
Comments
Tags
Permissions

Name: Documents
Size: 4 items
Kind: Folder
Created: Saturday, 31 May 2008 19:49
Modified: Tuesday, 17 February 2009 11:48
Label: None
☐ Hide Extension
☐ Locked

Default Folder X can really enhance your Open and Save dialog boxes.


Documents
Size
14:38
624 KB
9:35
11:48
ata
Items
New Folder
New Burn Folder
Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "About Stacks.pdf"
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look "About Stacks.pdf"
Copy "About Stacks.pdf"
Label:
3 selected, 85.51 GB available

## 09 Finder copy and paste

Even with the help of *Exposé*, dragging a file from one window in *Finder* to another can be fiddly and it's easy to click off your selection. It's better to **Copy** and **Paste** a *Finder* item. Select the item, or items, you want and use **Copy** from the **Edit** menu, choose the destination you want and **Paste**. **Copy** and **Paste** are also available from the contextual menus (right-click a file) or the cog in *Finder*'s toolbars.

## 10 Use Default Folder X

Although you have to pay for it, *Default Folder X* (www.stclairsoft.com/DefaultFolderX/) will save you hours. It customises Open and Save dialogs to include a whole range of extra file- and folder-handling features, accessible through mouse-clicks or keyboard shortcuts. Navigate the whole of your file system from the pull-down menu at the top of the dialog box, use the toolbar at the side to go to your favourite folders, or mouse-over their 'shadows' to select folders that are open in *Finder*. *Default Folder* also gives you access to *Finder* features within dialogs: you can QuickView files, change permissions, add comments and add Spotlight info to items. There are even options to rename and compress items, move them to the Trash, and 'tag' them to find them easily.

Handily, all this goodness isn't just confined to dialog boxes, there are optional menubar and Dock items to give you access to your folders whenever you like.

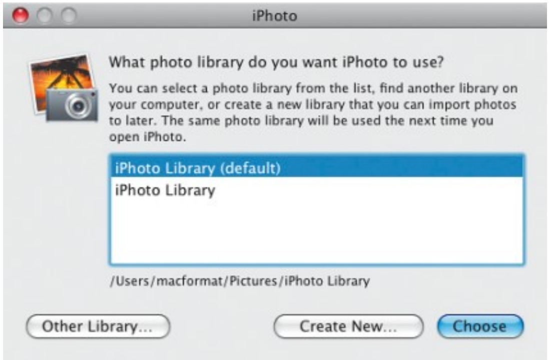
»

# iLife timesavers

How to optimise and work with iLife

## 11 Speeding up iPhoto

If you have a large number of photos in your *iPhoto* library, it can really slow down. Rather than simply deleting photos, there are other things you can do to speed it up again, such as turning off item counts in albums (using Preferences). The best option though is to split your photos into separate libraries, keeping the ones you frequently use in the main library. If you hold down ⌥ when you start *iPhoto*, it will prompt you to choose a library to use or create a new one.


iPhoto

What photo library do you want iPhoto to use?

You can select a photo library from the list, find another library on your computer, or create a new library that you can import photos to later. The same photo library will be used the next time you open iPhoto.

iPhoto Library (default)
iPhoto Library

/Users/macformat/Pictures/iPhoto Library

Other Library...
Create New...
Choose

**Moving some photos to a second library will speed up iPhoto.**

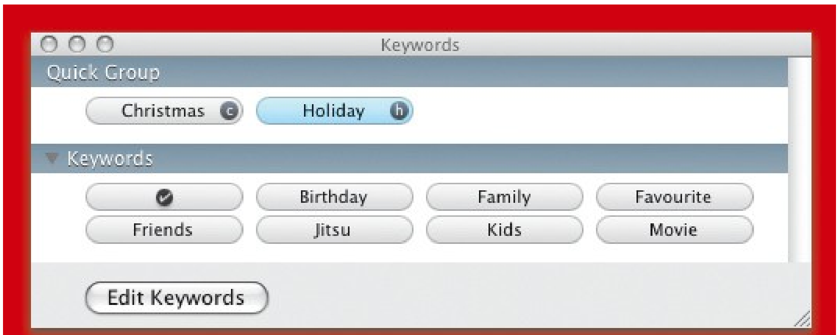
GarageBand – Survivalism
Tracks
Lead Vocal
Backing Vocal
Backing Vocal
Bass
Guitar Riff
Guitar Wah
Guitar Drone
Drums
Filtered Drums
Grand Piano
Synth Slicer
Synth Sequence
Software Instrument
Master Track
Browse
Edit
Show All
Bass
Drum Kits
Guitars
Horns
Mallets
Organs
Pianos and Keyboards
Sound Effects
Strings
Synth Basics
Synth Leads
Synth Pads
Synth Textures
Woodwinds
Electric Piano
Grand Piano On Stage
Grand Piano Punchy
Grand Piano
Smokey Clav
Smooth Clav
Swirling Electric Piano
Whirly
Delete Instrument
Save Instrument...
13. 2. 1.001

## 14 Save resources in GarageBand

Software instrument loops are a combination of a software instrument and effects and are customisable. However, they have higher CPU requirements than real instrument loops, which play pre-recorded audio, so will slow down *GarageBand*. If you want to use more software instrument loops, turn them into real loops by ⌥-dragging the software instrument loop from the loop browser into the timeline.

## 12 iPhoto's hidden keyboard shortcuts

*iPhoto* has many hidden keyboard shortcuts, that aren't mentioned in the menus, including M to magnify a photo. The simplest is ⌥: pressing it will change the rotate function to work in the opposite direction to the way specified in your Preferences. It will also change the + button in the bottom left-hand corner so it creates Smart Albums instead of Albums. For most people, ⌘+⌥+⌫ will solve *iPhoto*'s most annoying feature – if you have a photo selected in an album, this will delete the photo altogether rather than just from the album.

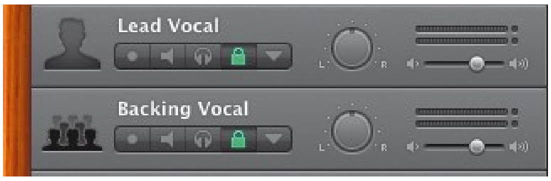

Keywords
Quick Group
Christmas c
Holiday h
Keywords
✓
Birthday
Family
Favourite
Friends
Jitsu
Kids
Movie
Edit Keywords

## 13 Organise your photos

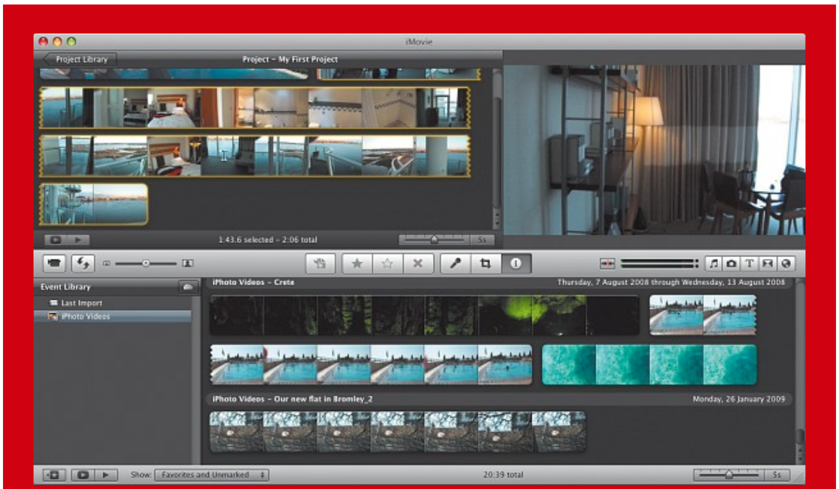
In *iPhoto* you can add the same photos to multiple albums and then organise them. Use **Folders** (File > New Folder) to collect your albums into groups, and add keywords using the **Keywords** panel (Window > Show Keywords) to every photo in the folder, in one step. Then create **Smart Albums** (File > New Smart Albums) based on combinations of keywords and other rules to group-related photos.

## 15 Lock GarageBand tracks

When you lock a track, *GarageBand* automatically renders that track to your hard drive, freeing up CPU power. When you're happy with how your tracks sound, lock as many tracks as you like by clicking the lock icon in each track. Then click the Play button to render your locked tracks to your hard disk. Locked tracks sound identical to unlocked ones, and you can still adjust the volume at any time. If you need to do further editing, such as adjusting effects, changing notes and moving regions, simply unlock the track by clicking the lock icon, make your adjustments and then relock them.


Lead Vocal
Backing Vocal
L
R

**Locking unused GarageBand tracks frees up system resources.**


iMovie
Project Library
Project – My First Project
1:43.6 selected - 2:06 total
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
iPhoto Videos – Crete
Thursday, 7 August 2008 through Wednesday, 13 August 2008
iPhoto Videos – Our new flat in Bromley_2
Monday, 26 January 2009
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
20:39 total

## 16 Turn on advanced tools

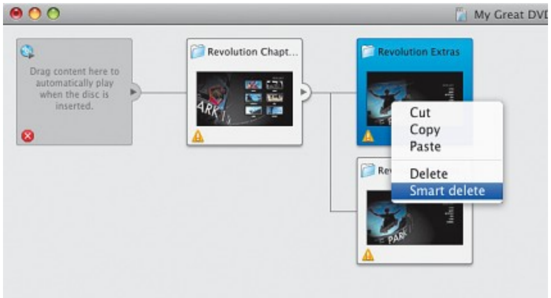
In *iMovie*, go to **Preferences** and click the box next to **Show Advanced Tools** to give yourself faster editing. On the toolbar an extra **Keyword** button appears, which enables you to tag and filter using keywords, while the **Mark as Favourite**, **Unmark** and **Reject** buttons become powerful tool buttons. This means you can select multiple clips without having to select each one and then click the tools every time. Also, if you drag a video selection from the **Event** library to a clip in the **Project** window you get more options, such as the ability to do **Picture in Picture**.

## 17 Faster iMovie exports

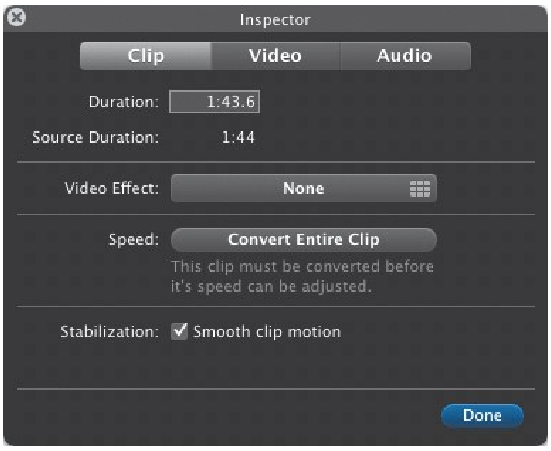
Exporting clips from an *iMovie* project and importing them into another application need not be a two-step process. Provided it's been recorded in a compatible format, you can quickly export video and audio clips to other applications by simply dragging and dropping them from the *iMovie* clips pane, timeline or clip viewer directly onto *iDVD* drop zones, *QuickTime* (or other applications), *Finder* or the Desktop. If you can't see both applications on your screen, use *Exposé* to switch between *iMovie* and your target application. If you want to resize your movie for specific purposes, however, you're still better off rendering it first.

## 18 Use smart delete in iDVD

In *iDVD*'s Map view you can rearrange your project by dragging and dropping the icons, but it can also act as a big timesaver by giving you the chance to batch edit. Simply select multiple items then apply a change for all the elements to be altered. If you want to delete an entire section or menu within your DVD project, *iDVD* will automatically reconnect the remaining assets if you use Smart Delete. Select the menu or section that you'd like to delete, ctrl-click the selection to display a contextual menu, then choose Smart Delete from that menu.


My Great DVD
Drag content here to automatically play when the disc is inserted.
Revolution Chapt...
Revolution Extras
Cut
Copy
Paste
Delete
Smart delete

**Smart Delete ensures the assets stay connected in iDVD.**


Inspector

Clip | Video | Audio

Duration: 1:43.6

Source Duration: 1:44

Video Effect: None

Speed: Convert Entire Clip

This clip must be converted before it's speed can be adjusted.

Stabilization: ☑ Smooth clip motion

Done

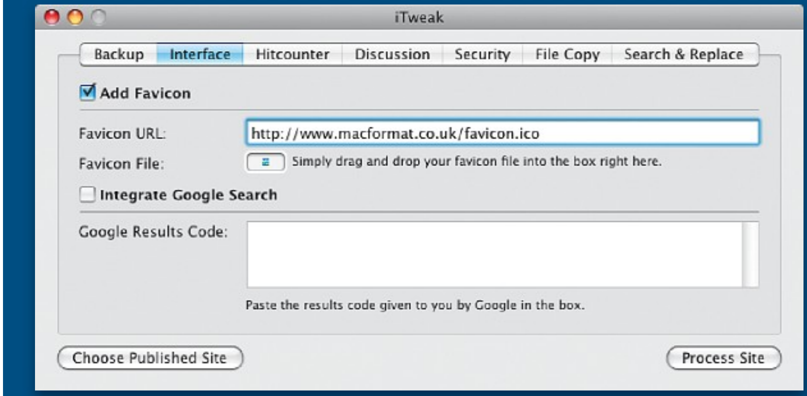
**iMovie '09's new Inspector can be brought up with a double-click or by pressing keyboard shortcuts. See tip 19.**

## 19 Double-click clip to view Inspector

*iMovie '09* gathers its adjustment controls together in a new Inspector dialog box. You can select a clip and click the i icon in the toolbar, or choose an option from the new cog icon that appears on every clip, but it's easier to simply double-click the clip to bring up the Inspector. *iMovie*'s adjustment controls can also be invoked from the keyboard by pressing the following letters (with no modifier key): I for clip adjustments; V for video adjustments; A for audio adjustments; and C for cropping, Ken Burns and rotation adjustments.

## 20 Try out iTweak

If your *iWeb* site is lacking in some way and the HTML fragment widget isn't enough for you, *iTweak* (**http://guimkie.com/projects/itweak/**) should add what you need with little effort. It can: add a favicon (the symbol next to the URL in the address bar) via drag and drop; integrate a *Google Search* bar into your site; add *Google Analytics*, *Statcounter* and any other hit counter in the world; embed the *Haloscan Commenting* system; add a PHP contact form; automatically copy files from one location to another; and search and replace the HTML that *iWeb* publishes.


iTweak

Backup | Interface | Hitcounter | Discussion | Security | File Copy | Search & Replace

☑ Add Favicon

Favicon URL: http://www.macformat.co.uk/favicon.ico

Favicon File: Simply drag and drop your favicon file into the box right here.

☐ Integrate Google Search

Google Results Code:

Paste the results code given to you by Google in the box.

Choose Published Site | Process Site

**iTweak adds many extra features to an iWeb site including integrating hit counters.**

# Our 20 top keyboard shortcuts!

The 20 keyboard shortcuts that will save you the most time

⌘ ⌥ I

## 21 Get info

While ⌘+I brings up the **Get Info** window in *Finder*, showing things like its location, name and size, adding the ⌥ key will bring up a single **Get Info** window. This will update automatically when you click on a different file or folder or select multiple files and folders.

⌘ W

## 22 Close window

This shortcut proves to be very useful if you want to quickly close a particular open document without quitting the application completely. It also works for closing individual tabs in *Safari*. In fact, you'll find it works in nearly every application on the Mac.

⌘ ⌥ D

## 23 Show/hide the Dock

How often have you wanted to get rid of the Dock so you can give yourself more room on your screen, but didn't want to go through all the menu options to hide it? This shortcut will niftily toggle between hiding and revealing the Dock.

⌘ ⇧ 3 4

## 24 Take screenshots

How many times have you tried to describe an error message you're getting, only to be faced with confusion? Why not take a screenshot, then mail the image instead? ⌘+⇧+3 captures the whole screen, while ⌘+ ⇧+4 gives you crosshairs.

⌘ H

## 25 Hide application

If you press ⌘+H this will instantly hide all the windows of the application that you're working with. Also, if you hold down ⌥ as well, it will hide all the applications except the one you're working on, getting rid of all that annoying screen clutter.

⌘ ⇥

## 26 Application switcher

The **Application switcher** saves you from having to go to the Dock to change the application you're using. Keep pressing the ⇥ key to step through which application you'll switch to (⇧ reverses the direction), or point with your cursor to select one.

⌘ ⌥ + -

## 27 Zoom in/out

This function will need to be enabled in the **Universal Access** pane in **System Preferences** first, but once it's activated it will enable you to zoom in or out of the screen. You can then move the mouse to easily pan around the page.

⌘ ⌥ esc

## 28 Force Quit

If an application has annoyingly locked up and all you get is the dreaded spinning beach ball when you mouse over it, use this shortcut to bring up the **Force Quit** dialog – this will then enable you to stop the application with extreme prejudice…

⌘ ctrl D

## 29 Dictionary

You will find that in most OS X programs if you're unsure of the meaning of any word, you can hold down ⌘+ctrl+D while hovering the cursor over it. This will then handily bring up the OS X dictionary definition of the word and put you back in the know. This tip is for OS X 10.5 only.

F9 F10 F11

## 30 F9, F10 and F11 - Exposé

*Exposé* will become even more of a lifesaver if you learn its keyboard shortcuts. These are typically F9, F10 and F11 although you'll find that this is different on later MacBooks. You can also use ⇥ to cycle between windows or press esc to exit *Exposé*.

⌘ [ ]

## 31 Forwards/Backwards

In *Finder* as well as most browsers, including *Safari*, pressing ⇧+[ will handily take you back to the previous page you were on, while ⌘+] will take you forward, just as if you'd clicked the arrow buttons located in the toolbar.

⌘ A

## 32 Select All

Possibly the biggest timesaver of them all, pressing ⌘+A in any application will **Select All**. This is irrespective of whether you have a page full of text, a collection of images in *iPhoto* or all the files and folders in a *Finder* window. A superb shortcut.

⌘ C X V

## 33 Copy, Cut, Paste

Copying (C), cutting (X) and pasting (V) is much quicker if you master the keyboard shortcuts. But always look out for a **Paste and Match Style**, ⌘+⌥+⇧+V, so you don't have to reformat text to match its destination.

⌘

## 34 Spotlight

Searching using Spotlight is obviously far quicker than navigating the file system. ⌘+[Spacebar] opens the Spotlight search box, but within Spotlight, ⌘+↩ opens the **Top Hit**, and ⌘ + a mouse-click reveals the item in *Finder*.

SPACE BAR

## 35 QuickView

The space bar by itself has many uses. If you're in *Finder*, pressing it when you have an item selected will bring up **QuickView**. If you're in an application and something is selected (it has a 'blue halo'), pressing the space bar will make your Mac act as if you've clicked it.

⌘ .

## 36 Cancel

If you're in the middle of an operation (whether you're copying over some files or you're in an open or save dialog) and you change your mind, you can stop the proceedings easily. By simply pressing ⌘ + . you'll put a halt to things.

⌘ ⌥ ← →

## 37 Jump words

When you're working with text, holding down the ⌥ key and pressing an arrow key will leap one word in that direction. Holding down ⌘ will jump you right to the start or end. While, holding down ⇧ will select the range you've just leapt over.

⌘ Z

## 38 Undo

This is the ultimate safety net. If something goes wrong, always hit ⌘+Z and nine times out of ten, no matter what, you'll be rescued. In some applications, there's also a **Redo** option to undo your **Undo Typing** with ⌘+Y as the shortcut.

⌘ ⇧ G

## 39 Go to file path

This will work in any **Open** or **Save** dialog box and it gives you a dialog into which you can type a file path to change your current directory. You can then handily tap on the ⇥ key to auto-complete folder and file names, if you wish.

F12

## 40 Dashboard

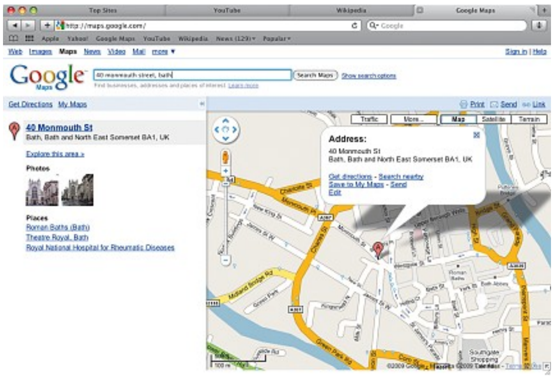
Save yourself the hassle of going to the web or opening yet another application by launching *Dashboard*. This is OS X's collection of widgets that perform useful tricks such as getting the weather forecast, giving you a calculator or bringing up the *Dictionary*.

# Safari and Mail shortcuts

Making Safari and Mail go faster than a speeding bullet

## 41 Use tabbed browsing

Why have ten browser windows open when you can just have one? Tabbed browsing – which you'll need to activate in *Safari*'s Preferences – enables you to have a different web page open in separate tabs of a single window. When you start to run out of tab space, *Safari* will give you a pull-down menu of tabs it couldn't fit on the toolbar, so you can easily find what you're looking for. You can also reorder tabs or convert them into windows (or back into tabs) by dragging them and dropping them.

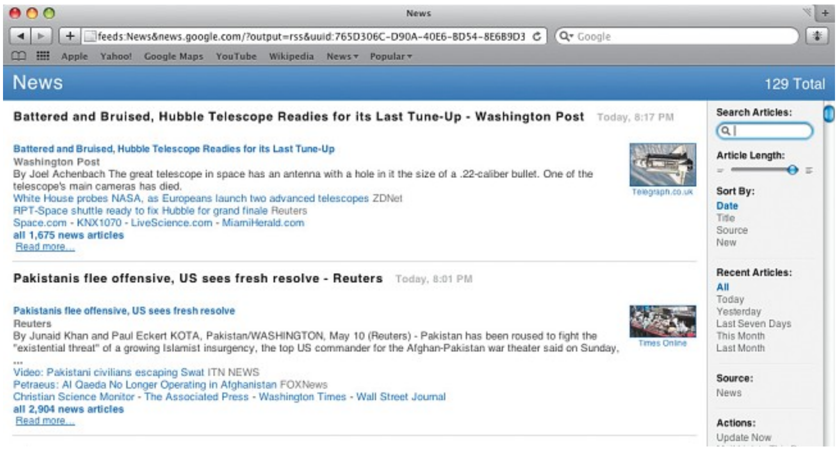

Top Sites
YouTube
Wikipedia
Google Maps
http://maps.google.com/
Google
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (129)
Popular
Google Maps
40 monmouth street, bath
Search Maps
Get Directions
My Maps
40 Monmouth St
Bath, Bath and North East Somerset BA1, UK
Address:
40 Monmouth St
Bath, Bath and North East Somerset BA1, UK
Traffic
More...
Map
Satellite
Terrain

**Using tabbed browsing saves you time and screen space.**

## 42 Use RSS feeds

How much of your day is spent visiting websites to see if they've been updated, only to discover they haven't? RSS feeds end that problem for you once and for all. Any site that has an RSS feed will show a blue RSS button in the *Safari*'s URL bar. Click on it and you'll get a list of all the latest content on that site that you can search through, and sort and limit to particular days using a handy sidebar. Bookmark the feed and it'll give you a count of all the new items at the site since you last visited.

**Safari's RSS feed support saves you from having to visit websites to see if they've been updated.**


News
feeds:News&news.google.com/?output=rss&uuid:765D306C-D90A-40E6-8D54-8E6B9D3
Google
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News
Popular
News
129 Total
Search Articles:
Article Length:
Sort By:
Date
Title
Source
New
Recent Articles:
All
Today
Yesterday
Last Seven Days
This Month
Last Month
Source:
News
Actions:
Update Now
Telegraph.co.uk
Times Online

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Battered and Bruised, Hubble Telescope Readies for its Last Tune-Up
Washington Post
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White House probes NASA, as Europeans launch two advanced telescopes ZDNet
RPT-Space shuttle ready to fix Hubble for grand finale Reuters
Space.com - KNX1070 - LiveScience.com - MiamiHerald.com
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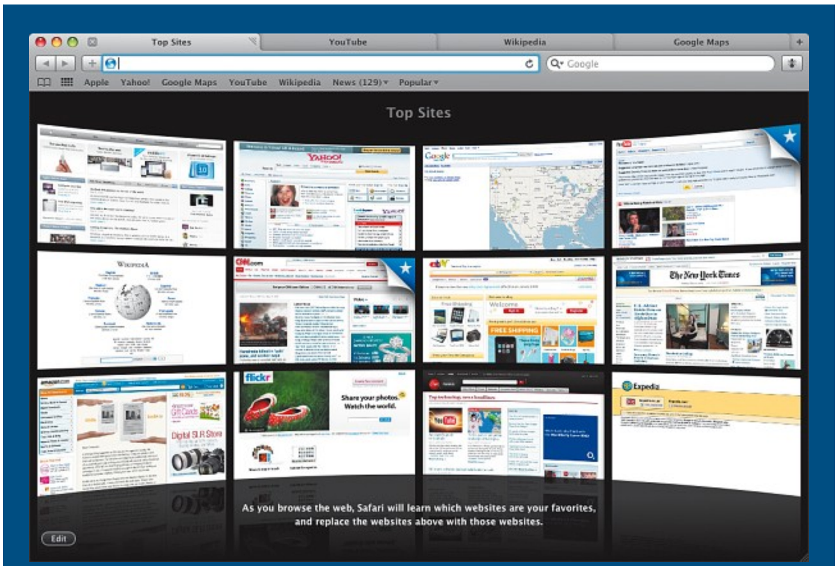
Pakistanis flee offensive, US sees fresh resolve
Reuters
By Junaid Khan and Paul Eckert KOTA, Pakistan/WASHINGTON, May 10 (Reuters) - Pakistan has been roused to fight the "existential threat" of a growing Islamist insurgency, the top US commander for the Afghan-Pakistan war theater said on Sunday, ...
Video: Pakistani civilians escaping Swat ITN NEWS
Petraeus: Al Qaeda No Longer Operating in Afghanistan FOXNews
Christian Science Monitor - The Associated Press - Washington Times - Wall Street Journal
all 2,904 news articles
Read more...


Top Sites
YouTube
Wikipedia
Google Maps
Google
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (129)
Popular
Top Sites
Edit

As you browse the web, Safari will learn which websites are your favorites, and replace the websites above with those websites.

## 43 Install Safari 4

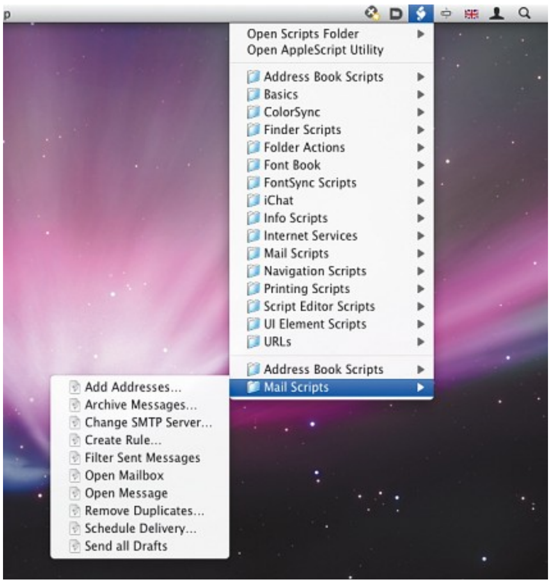
It's still in beta but *Safari 4* is stable, fast and has a range of new features. As well as moving tabs to the title bar, *Safari* now has **Autocomplete** for searches, which suggests common searches so you don't have to type so much. It also has: **Top Sites**, which gives you a new way of looking at your most commonly accessed sites; **Cover Flow** for your bookmarks and history and a new high-powered developer tool for debugging web pages. Get it from **www.apple.com/safari/**.

## 44 Foxmarks/Xmarks

More often than not, you'll be using one browser on your Mac at home and a different browser on a machine at work, which might be a PC (gasp!). Keeping all your bookmarks in sync between all those machines takes time, and MobileMe doesn't sync with *Firefox* – and if you use RSS feeds, no matter what you do, Live Bookmarks in *Firefox* never ends up working when imported in *Safari* or vice versa. The solution is *Foxmarks* (www.foxmarks.com), a free add-on for *Safari*, *Firefox* and *Internet Explorer* for Mac and Windows that will keep all your bookmarks (and, with *Firefox*, your passwords) in sync.

## 45 Enhance Safari search

Whether you're using *Safari 3* or *Safari 4*, *Inquisitor* (www.inquisitorx.com/safari/index_en.php) is invaluable… and free. Not only does it give you a prettier version of *Safari 4*'s search Autocomplete, it allows you to change the default website used by *Safari* from Google and use whatever keyboard shortcuts you choose. *Inquisitor* also learns from your searches, so you'll end up getting results tailored to your needs, and if you use Yahoo!, it will also give you previews of pages.


Open Scripts Folder
Open AppleScript Utility
Address Book Scripts
Basics
ColorSync
Finder Scripts
Folder Actions
Font Book
FontSync Scripts
iChat
Info Scripts
Internet Services
Mail Scripts
Navigation Scripts
Printing Scripts
Script Editor Scripts
UI Element Scripts
URLs
Address Book Scripts
Mail Scripts
Add Addresses...
Archive Messages...
Change SMTP Server...
Create Rule...
Filter Sent Messages
Open Mailbox
Open Message
Remove Duplicates...
Schedule Delivery...
Send all Drafts

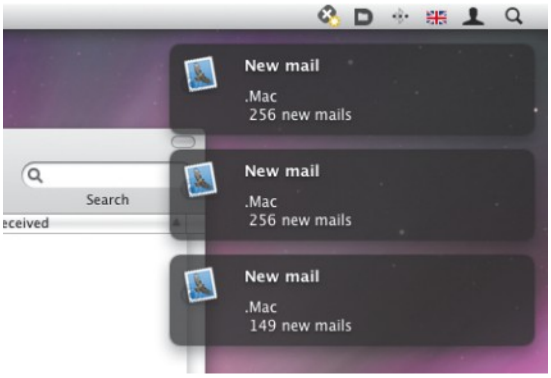
**Mail Scripts helps you to customise and automate how Mail works.**

## 46 Utilise AppleScripts

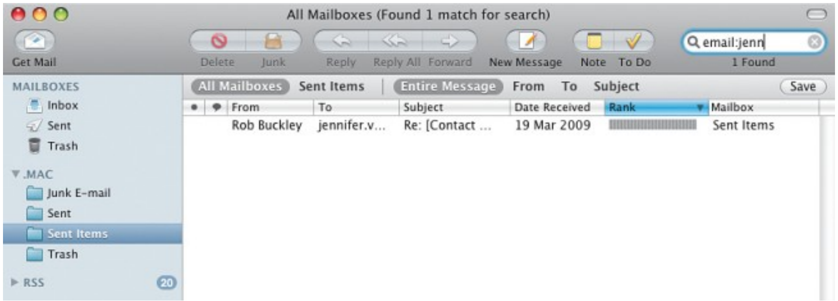
Before *Automator* came along, OS X's built-in scripting language, AppleScript, was the best way for anyone to automate OS X programs and customise them. Even now, there are things it can do that *Automator* can't. To write your own AppleScripts means learning a simple, English-like language, but if that seems too much, others have already written plenty of free AppleScripts that you can install and use to enhance your programs. *Mail*, in particular, has many. Try *Mail Scripts* (http://homepage.mac.com/aamann/Mail_Scripts.html), which helps remove duplicate messages, schedule email delivery, change servers, archive messages, open messages and filter sent messages.

## 47 Improve Mail

While *Mail* gives you an idea of how many new messages you have (thanks to its Dock icon), more often than not, you don't notice it changing. *Growl* (http://growl.info/), which also works with other apps, including *Safari*, provides a notification system that gives you a message preview. It's very customisable, so you can set delays for previews, or decide whether they should stay on screen.


New mail
.Mac
256 new mails
Search
eceived
New mail
.Mac
256 new mails
New mail
.Mac
149 new mails

**Growl gives you previews of your email messages.**


All Mailboxes (Found 1 match for search)
Get Mail
Delete
Junk
Reply
Reply All
Forward
New Message
Note
To Do
email:jenn
1 Found
MAILBOXES
Inbox
Sent
Trash
.MAC
Junk E-mail
Sent
Sent Items
Trash
RSS
20
All Mailboxes
Sent Items
Entire Message
From
To
Subject
Save
From
To
Subject
Date Received
Rank
Mailbox
Rob Buckley
jennifer.v...
Re: [Contact ...
19 Mar 2009
Sent Items

**Use the special command words in Mail to refine your searches, saving you time and frustration.**

## 48 Play clever with Spotlight

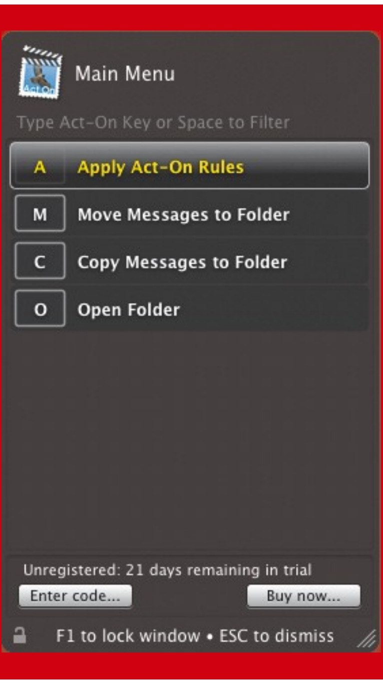
*Mail's* Spotlight integration for searches means you can search every mail field for a specific word using Spotlight. However, you can narrow down how Spotlight searches emails using some special command words, followed by a colon. For example, if you want to search for all messages containing the word 'macformat' that include email addresses containing 'mac.com' just type, 'email:mac.com macformat'. Other keywords include 'from', which will search just for names instead of addresses, 'subject', which will scan the the subject lines, and 'date', which will search for the date sent (you can use things like > and = to specify any ranges).

## 49 Filtering spam

One of the biggest timewasters around is junk mail. *Mail* has a built-in junk mail filter, activated in Preferences, which determines whether a message is spam and marks it as such, or deletes it. However, it can be slow to learn, isn't updated very often and isn't very reliable. *SpamSieve* (http://c-command.com/spamsieve/), which works with many other email programs as well, is far more powerful and customisable. You'l find that it's regularly updated, easier to train and lets you create rules for approving and blacklisting particular kinds of mail.

## 50 Speed up Mail

For the true power Mail user, *Mail Act-On* (**www.indev.ca/MailActOn.html**) is the ultimate way to cut to the chase and speed up and declutter your *Mail* messages. This nifty application will enable you to create rules and combinations of rules for moving and copying messages to particular mailboxes. All of these rules can then be accessed from a panel or with a simple keystroke and can apply to incoming and outgoing messages. It can also be combined with *MailTags* (**www.indev.ca/MailTags.html**) to tag messages with keywords and projects so you can locate your messages more easily. ●


Main Menu
Type Act-On Key or Space to Filter
A Apply Act-On Rules
M Move Messages to Folder
C Copy Messages to Folder
O Open Folder
Unregistered: 21 days remaining in trial
Enter code...
Buy now...
F1 to lock window • ESC to dismiss

**For organising your email messages automatically, Mail Act-On can't be beaten.**

# BOULDER DASH®

## Now on your iPhone and iPod Touch!

The original Boulder Dash is back!
Collect gems and avoid falling rocks as you explore
all 80 of the original caves.
Featuring 4 bonus caves, you'll be
escaping all your favourite creatures
in exciting gameplay set to a re-mixed soundtrack
with all the classic sound effects!
New features for the iPhone include:-
"Pinch" zooming, explore the
cave and plan your moves by panning
and scrolling, all with a single-finger flick!

2 sets of configurable, on-screen,
multi-touch controls, plus a 3rd mode, finger dragging.
How you control Rockford™ is up to you!

4 different high resolution graphic sets
in 'Updated' mode, PLUS all of the original
graphic sets in 'Retro' mode!

The ability to switch between portrait and landscape
gameplay by simply rotating your device.

OpenFeint social networking, post up high scores
and even chat with your friends!

FALLING
ROCKS

Selected by Apple as "New and Noteworthy"

125
0/75
000000

016
0/4
000000

080
3/75
000015

BOULDER DASH® 25th ANNIVERSARY 1984-2009

chillingo

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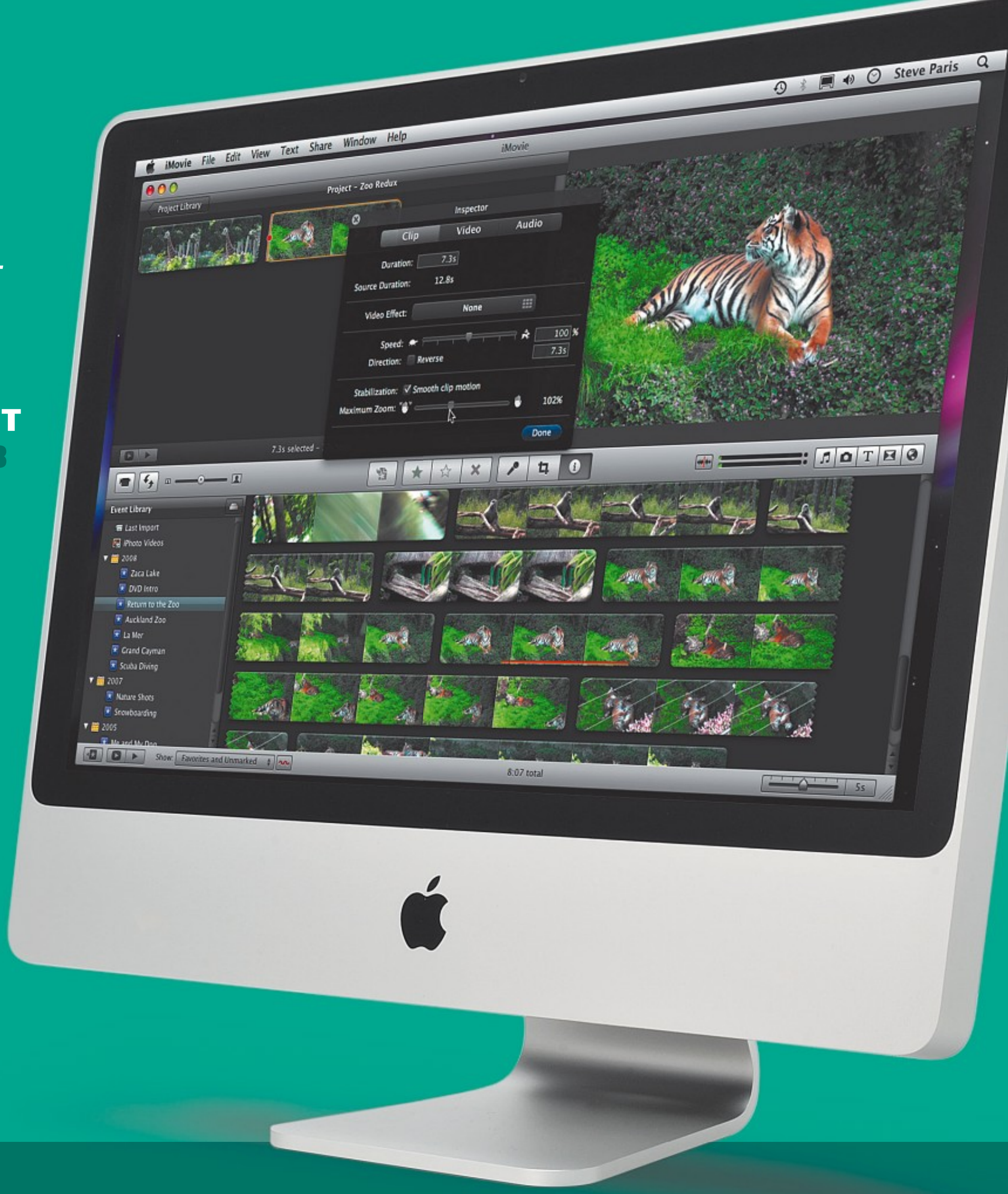
> *"Apple has brought motion-smoothing to the masses!"*
>
> **ONE OF iMOVIE '09'S BEST FEATURES EXPOSED P48**


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
Project – Zoo Redux
Project Library
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Duration: 7.3s
Source Duration: 12.8s
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 % 7.3s
Direction: Reverse
Stabilization: Smooth clip motion
Maximum Zoom: 102%
Done
7.3s selected
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2008
Zoo Lake
DVD Intro
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2005
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
8:07 total
5s

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# How to...

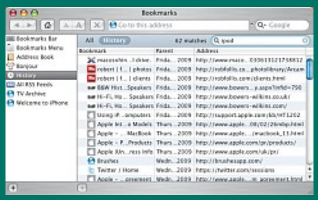
## ● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
**Deputy Editor**

One thing we pride ourselves on at *MacFormat* is that even if you don't think you know much about computers, we're here to help you get the very best from your Mac. Case in point: the tutorial on p46 on enhancing your photographs in *iPhoto* takes you step by step through using this friendliest of photo management apps to give your pictures a professional polish.

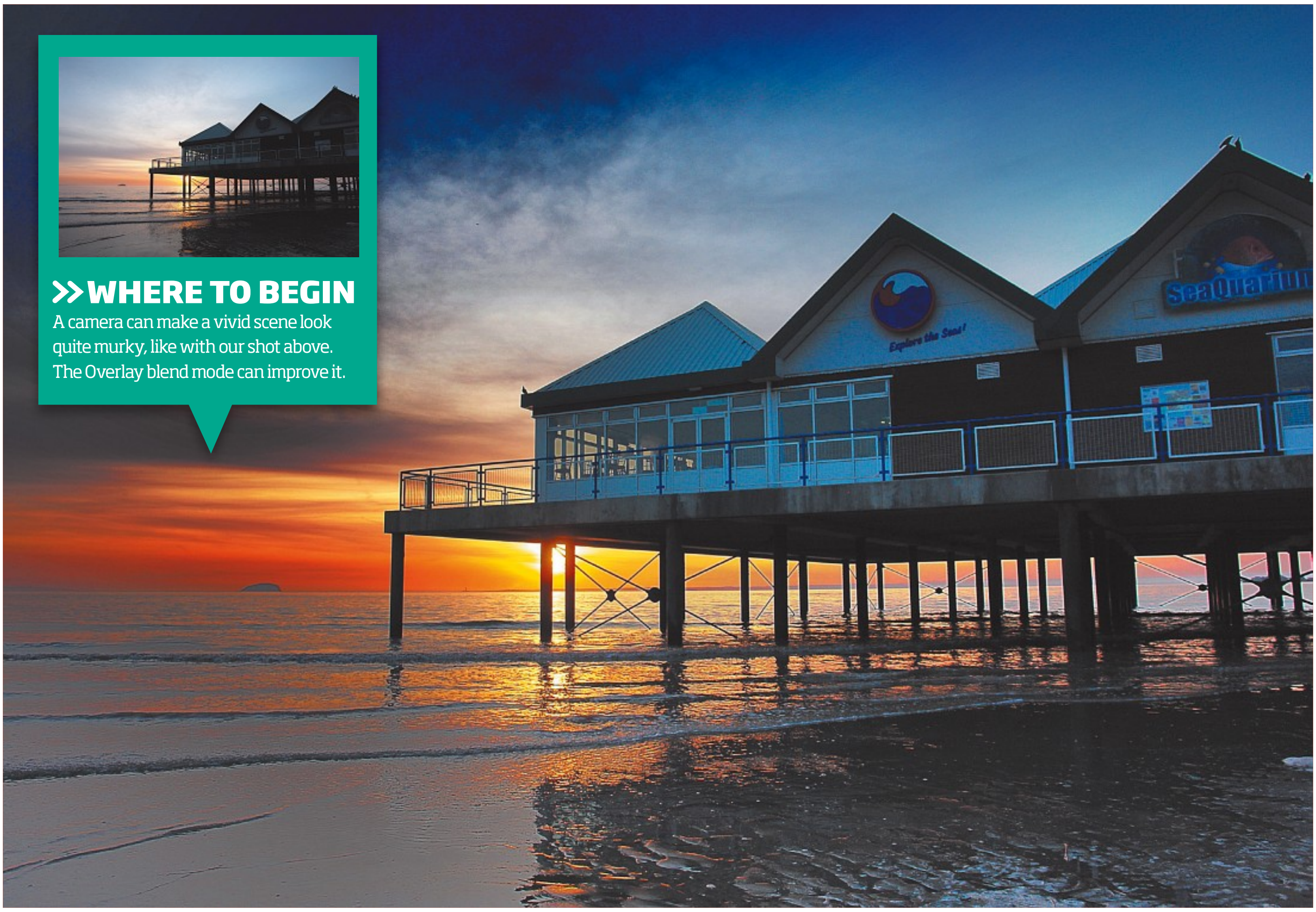
Best of all, if you're a little more advanced, there's plenty here for you too. Rod Lawton's excellent tutorial on balancing light and dark in a photo uses the ill-understood blend modes in *Photoshop* to great effect; I love this tutorial because it shows you how to use a broadly applicable technique to achieve a specific result.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to introduce a new face to *MacFormat*. Our new tech guru – also, confusingly, called Chris – is an old colleague of mine from a previous life, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what techy corners of the Mac he turns the spotlight on every month. For his debut column, he's all about System Profiler; turn to p64!



### >>DID YOU KNOW?

You don't need the Safari 4 beta to be able to search through your web history. Go to History > Show All History then use the search field in the blue bar at the top right.



**>>WHERE TO BEGIN**

A camera can make a vivid scene look quite murky, like with our shot above. The Overlay blend mode can improve it.

# Balance light and dark

## Correct colours in an image with Photoshop's Overlay blend mode

**>>KEY INFO**

**DIFFICULTY:** Intermediate

**TIME NEEDED:** 30 minutes

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** Adobe Photoshop or Elements (from £68, **www.adobe.com/uk**)

What we 'see' and what the camera records aren't always the same. The camera records tonal relationships exactly as they are, but we perceive dark and light tones as being much closer together. We can see detail in the shadows and the highlights perfectly well, so the camera's version can be disappointing.

That's certainly the case with the picture we've got here. It looked like a brilliant, vivid sunset, but the camera's recorded nothing more than a silhouette against a murky sky.

Camera makers are well aware of this phenomenon, and that's why they include contrast correction functions; Nikon's D-Lighting is one example. You can achieve a similar result in *Photoshop* using the Shadows/Highlights dialog. The aim is to lighten the shadows and darken the highlight areas in keeping with how the scene looked to the naked eye, but without sacrificing contrast or vividness or making it look fake.

There's no simple tonal correction you can apply which will achieve this. Instead, you need a way to isolate the dark tones and the light tones and adjust them individually. This is what the Shadows/Highlights dialog does, but unless you're careful, it's ham-fisted in its approach.

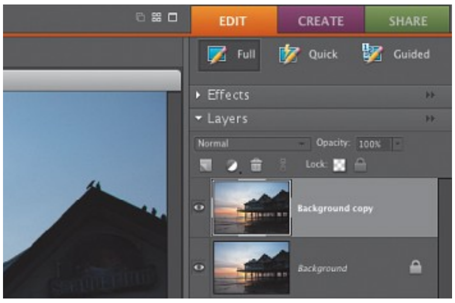
> *"This technique can be subtle and powerful, and it's quite easy to modify its effect retrospectively"*

Here's a different technique. It uses a similar principle – isolating and adjusting the light and dark tones separately – but it does it in a different way using a negative layer created from the image itself and *Photoshop*'s Overlay blend mode.

This technique can be both subtle and powerful, and it's easy to modify its effect retrospectively because all the adjustments are applied to separate layers rather than the image layer itself. The key to getting it right is the amount of blur applied to the negative layer, but this depends on the image.

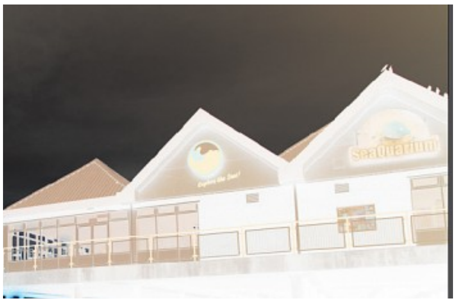
**Rod Lawton**

## HOW TO / Correct colours with the Overlay blend mode


EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Full
Quick
Guided
Effects
Layers
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy
Background

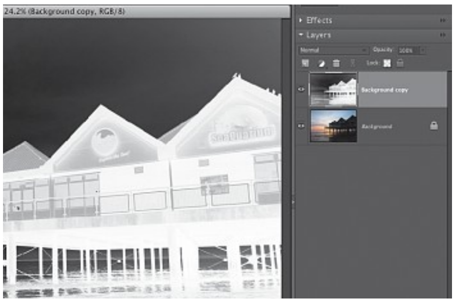
### 01 Duplicate the layer

No hand-drawn selections are needed here. We're going to use the luminance values in the image itself to provide our mask. The first step is to duplicate the image layer, and the easiest way is to drag its thumbnail to the new layer button in the **Layers** palette.



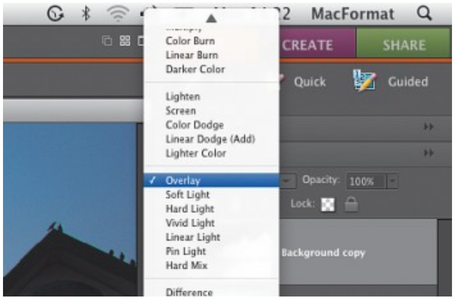
### 02 Invert the layer

We need to invert the image (⌘+I) so that it becomes a negative. Now the dark tones in the original become light tones and vice versa. The idea behind this technique is that the dark areas of the negative version are used to darken the light areas in the original.


24.2% (Background copy, RGB/8)
Effects
Layers
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Background copy
Background

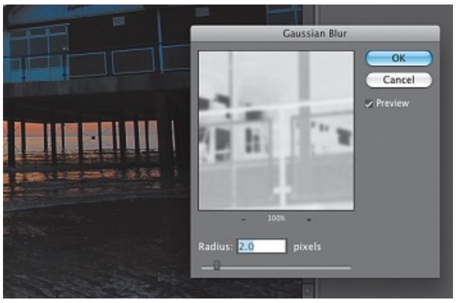
### 03 Desaturate

First, though, we need to desaturate this negative layer (⌘+⇧+U). If we don't do this, the following steps will introduce some unwanted colour shifts. Note that it has to be the desaturate command; you can't convert to greyscale because this affects the entire image.


MacFormat
CREATE
SHARE
Quick
Guided
Color Burn
Linear Burn
Darker Color
Lighten
Screen
Color Dodge
Linear Dodge (Add)
Lighter Color
Overlay
Soft Light
Hard Light
Vivid Light
Linear Light
Pin Light
Hard Mix
Difference
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy

### 04 Overlay mode

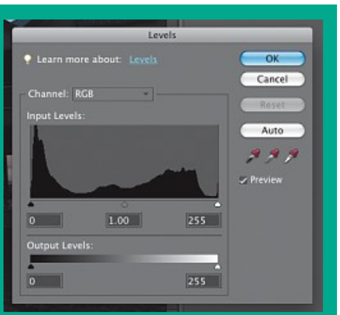
Now we need to switch the blend mode of the negative layer to **Overlay**. 50% grey in this layer will have no effect, but lighter or darker shades will lighten or darken the image underneath. Already, the sky looks darker and the pier looks lighter.


Gaussian Blur
OK
Cancel
Preview
100%

Radius: 2.0 pixels

### 05 Gaussian blur 1

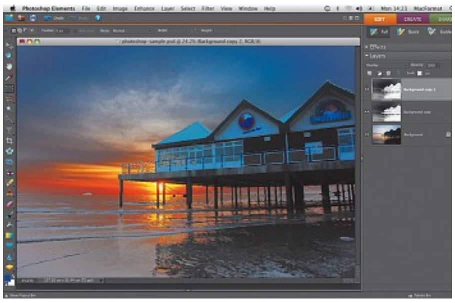
At this stage, there will be areas in the image which have taken on an artificially flat look where there's an abrupt transition between corrected and uncorrected areas. Applying a light Gaussian blur (2 pixels here) to the negative layer may fix this.


Levels
Learn more about: Levels
OK
Cancel
Reset
Auto
Preview

Channel: RGB
Input Levels: 0 1.00 255
Output Levels: 0 255

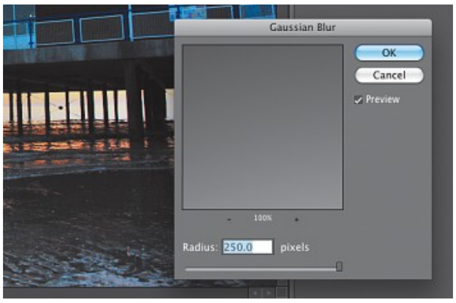
### QUICK TIP

This method only works if the image has good highlight detail; check in **Levels**. Clipping won't hurt, but for large bleached-out areas it won't bring them back. Make sure highlight detail is there when taking a photo.



### 06 Duplicating the layer

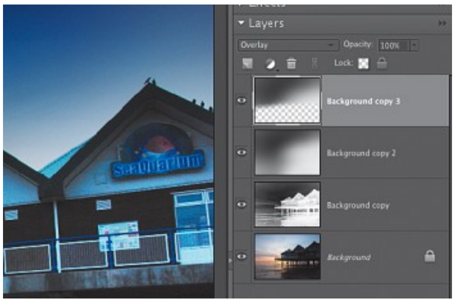
So far so good, but our correction hasn't quite gone far enough. That's easily fixed - we can duplicate the negative layer. Unfortunately, the effect does now look quite artificial, and again it's because the transitions between corrected and uncorrected areas are too abrupt.


Gaussian Blur
OK
Cancel
Preview
100%

Radius: 250.0 pixels

### 07 Gaussian blur 2

We got away with a small blur amount on the first negative layer, but we won't get away with it twice. Here, we need to go all the way up to a 250-pixel blur to achieve a realistic look. Intermediate values will produce an obvious 'glow' effect around the darker areas.


Layers
Overlay
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy 3
Background copy 2
Background copy
Background

### 08 Fine tuning

Here we've gone on to create another duplicate to intensify the effect still further. By this point, though, image degradation may prove an issue, and the new layer is likely to need more blurring. Where the effect is too strong, you can erase that part of the layer. ●

# Enhance photos in iPhoto '09

Just how good are iPhoto '09's editing tools? Let's try them out…

## KEY INFO

**DIFFICULTY:** Intermediate

**TIME NEEDED:** 45 minutes

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** Apple iPhoto '09 (£69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

The editing tools in *iPhoto* have undergone quite a few changes in the latest version. The tools in previous versions were pretty basic and unsubtle, but even if you normally prefer to use a 'proper' image editor, *iPhoto '09*'s adjustments are well worth a look.

The single-click **Enhance** button really is good now. It sets the levels automatically, adjusts the white balance, hikes the saturation slightly and introduces a little shadow lightening. And once you've applied it you can open the **Adjust** window to see what it's done (hit A).

The histograms are interesting in that *iPhoto* will very slightly clip highlights if all three channels have a similar value, but if one has extended highlights compared to the rest, *iPhoto* will clip it more aggressively. It sounds like a recipe for disaster, but actually most of the time it looks pretty good, and you get the benefit of improved contrast, too.

The **Shadows** adjustment works rather well, too. The **Enhance** option applies it fairly lightly, and if you wind it up manually you can start to see masking effects around outlines, but it's a good example of this kind of tool. The **Highlights** adjustment tones down brighter areas, but only if the camera's recorded enough detail. It can't fix 'blown' highlights.

Don't spend too much time with the **Exposure** slider in the **Adjust** window. It seems to be a much cruder tool than it was in previous versions, and just pushes the image's tones up the scale and, if you keep pushing, right off the end.

> *"iPhoto '09 proves more effective than Aperture for simple contrast adjustments"*

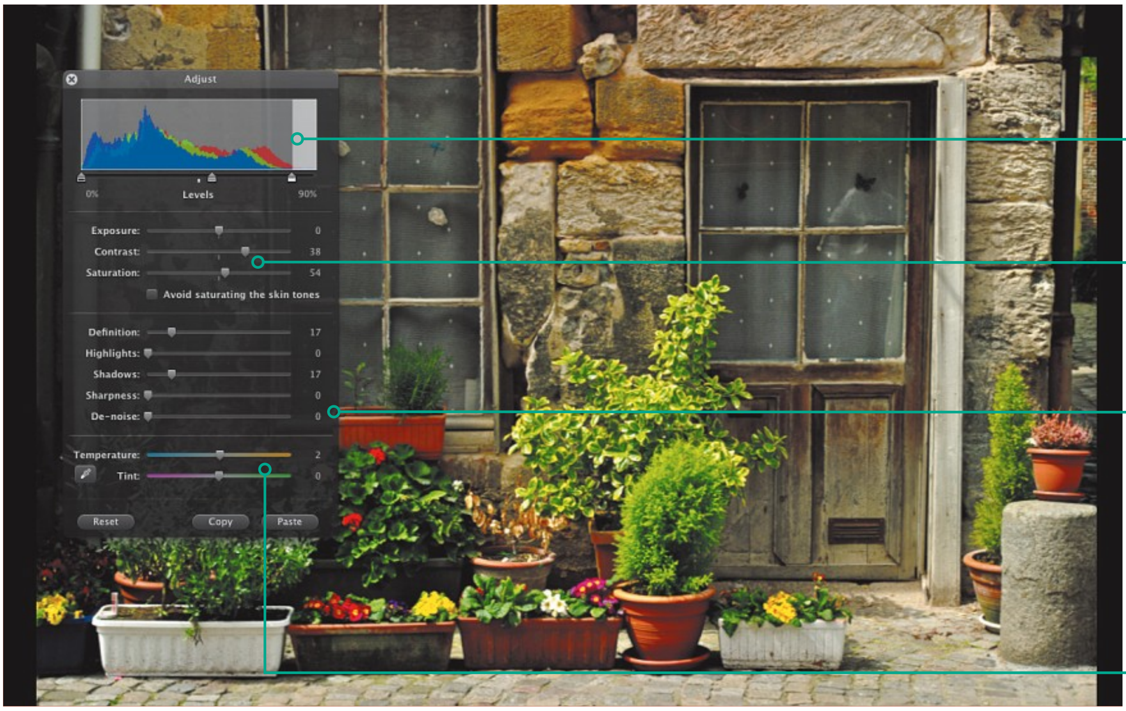
Instead, use the **Levels** controls at the top of the palette for contrast and tone adjustments. You can move the black and white point sliders to line up with the ends of the image histogram and use the middle slider to adjust the overall brightness.

Have a go with the **Contrast** slider, too. It compresses the shadows and highlights so that the midtones are expanded. It does clip detail slightly, but not much. This is interesting, as *iPhoto '09* proves more effective than *Aperture* for simple contrast adjustments (let's hope the *Aperture* design team's paying attention).

In fact, *iPhoto*'s image-editing tools are impressive all round for being quick, effective and subtle.

**Rod Lawton**

## QUICK LOOK / iPhoto '09's Adjust window



Exposure: 0
Contrast: 38
Saturation: 54
☐ Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition: 17
Highlights: 0
Shadows: 17
Sharpness: 0
De-noise: 0
Temperature: 2
Tint: 0

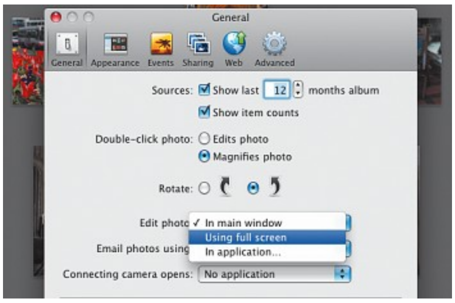
**Levels**
Delicate adjustments are best made here. With **Enhance**, *iPhoto* alters values automatically.

**Basic fixes**
**Exposure** is crude but **Contrast** and **Saturation** work well.

**In-depth tools**
**Definition**, **Highlights** and **Shadows** are good; beware of glow effects.

**White balance**
The **Enhance** button sets white balance; you can tweak the sliders.

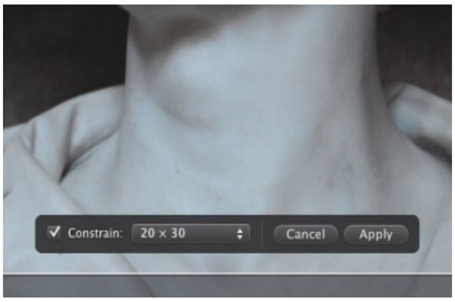
# HOW TO / Improve photos using iPhoto's editing tools


General
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
Web
Advanced

Sources: ☑ Show last 12 months album
☑ Show item counts
Double-click photo: ○ Edits photo
● Magnifies photo
Rotate: ○ ●
Edit photo: ✓ In main window
Using full screen
In application...
Email photos using
Connecting camera opens: No application

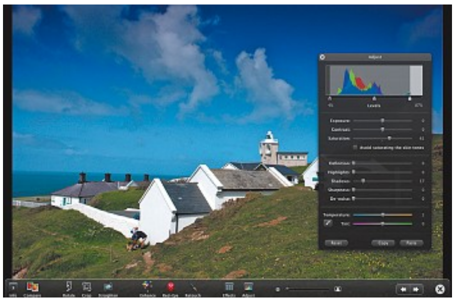
## 01 Editing preferences

You can edit in *iPhoto* or you can use an external editor. Make your choice in Preferences > General. If you use *iPhoto* you can choose between main window and full screen display. Full screen looks better but is slower to use and you can't swap albums without exiting.


✓ Constrain: 20 x 30
Cancel
Apply

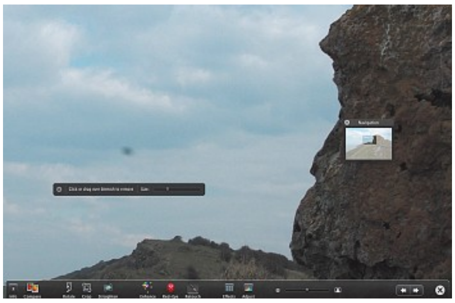
## 02 Crop and rotate

Crop and rotate the image if necessary first. Note the menu at the bottom of the window when the **Crop** tool is active; this lets you constrain the crop to fit specific print sizes and aspect ratios – handy if you're preparing photos for on-screen use or photo labs.



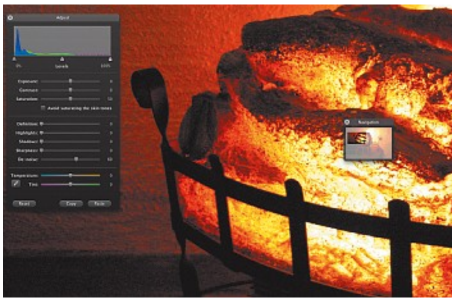
## 03 Enhance button

In previous versions, the **Enhance** button sometimes produced some wild results. Here, it's more subtle and worth a try before you bother with any manual adjustments. It doesn't just auto-correct the levels and white balance, it will also lighten any dark shadows.



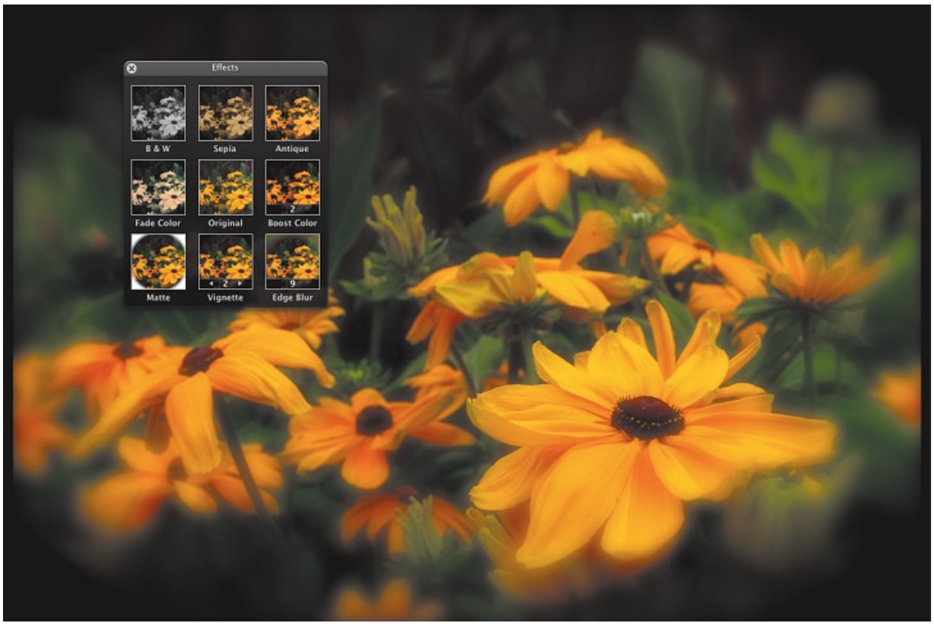
## 04 Retouch tool

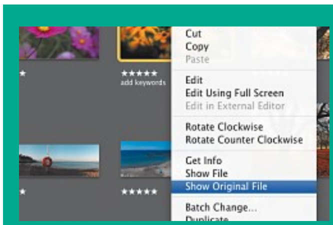
Bugged by dust spots on your sensor? The **Retouch** tool blots them out. Hit 1 to zoom to 100%, use the **Navigation** window to find the spot, set the brush size slightly larger and click on the spot. The tool drags in nearby pixels, so watch out for any objects nearby.



## 05 Sharpness and noise

The **Sharpness** slider does a good job of bumping up definition without introducing edge halos, and the **De-noise** tool holds on to detail well while subduing ISO noise. Inevitably, though, a watercolour effect does start to creep in as subtler textures start to smudge together.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

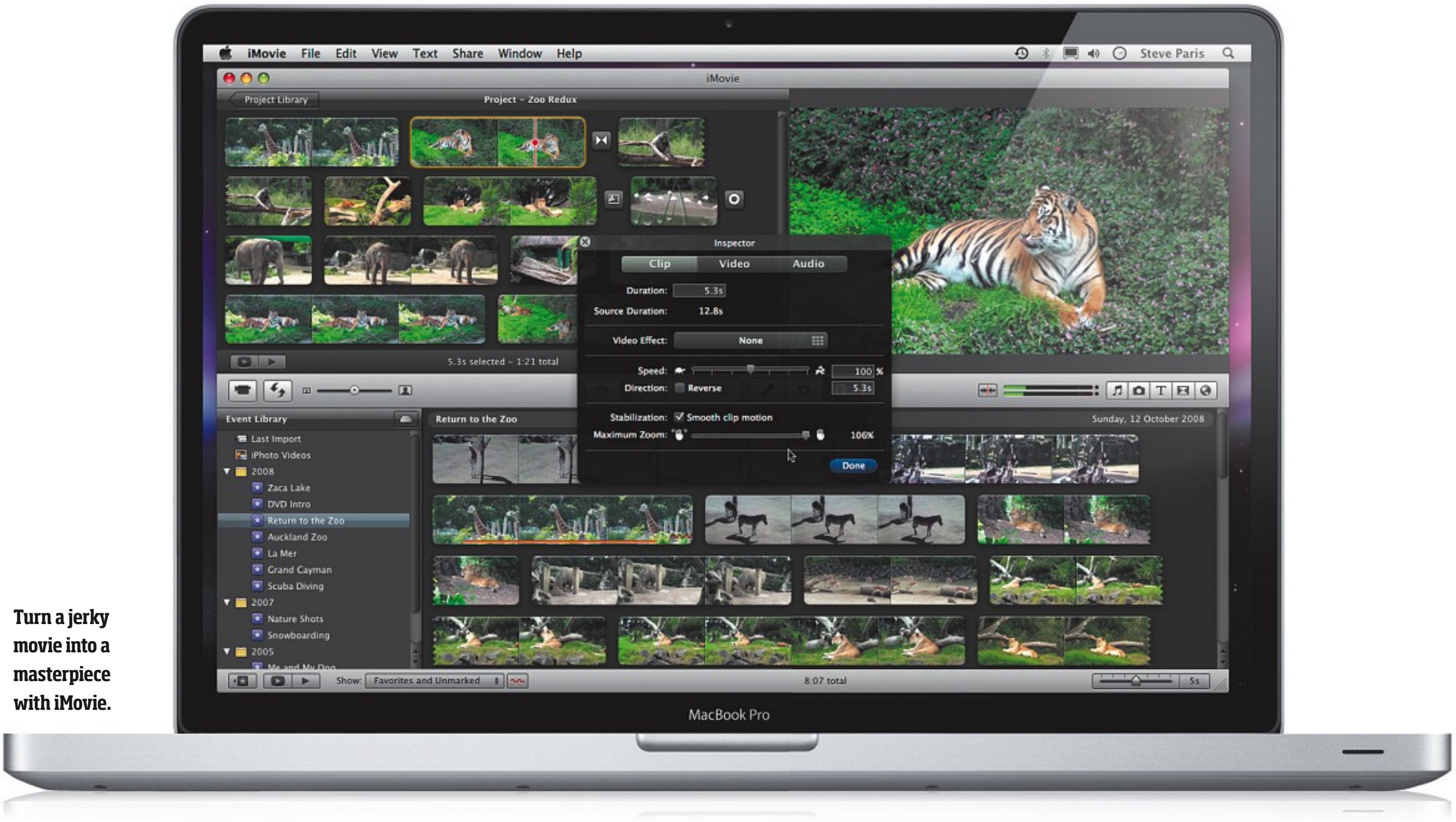

add keywords
Cut
Copy
Paste
Edit
Edit Using Full Screen
Edit in External Editor
Rotate Clockwise
Rotate Counter Clockwise
Get Info
Show File
Show Original File
Batch Change...
Duplicate

### QUICK TIP

Whenever you edit a picture, *iPhoto* saves a new version and relocates the original. *iPhoto*'s internal filing system is convoluted, but you can locate either the edited picture or the original in *Finder* by ctrl-clicking its thumbnail and choosing the option you want from the menu.

## 06 The Effects window

While the **Adjust** window contains most of the everyday tools you're likely to need there's a lot more to explore in the **Effects** window (E). At first sight this is just a set of one-click fixes for your photos, but it goes further. While the **B&W** and **Sepia** effects are just on or off, the others can be applied at different strengths. Each time you click the button, the effect ramps up another notch. There's more - these effects can also be applied cumulatively. To reduce the strength of an effect, ⌥-click it or use the arrows alongside the number at the bottom. And if you decide it's all gone wrong, click the **Original** icon in the middle of the window to start again. ●


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
iMovie
Project Library
Project – Zoo Redux
5.3s selected – 1:21 total
Inspector
Clip Video Audio
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2008
Zaca Lake
DVD Intro
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2005
Me and My Dog
Return to the Zoo
Sunday, 12 October 2008
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
8:07 total
5s
Done
MacBook Pro

Duration: 5.3s

Source Duration: 12.8s

Video Effect: None

Speed: 100 %

Direction: ☐ Reverse

Stabilization: ☑ Smooth clip motion

Maximum Zoom: 106%

**Turn a jerky movie into a masterpiece with iMovie.**

# Stabilise your iLife footage

## An impressive professional tool is now in the hands of every iLife '09 user

### >> KEY INFO

**DIFFICULTY:** Intermediate

**TIME NEEDED:** 30 minutes

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** Apple iMovie '09 version 8.0.2 or higher (£69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**), a camcorder with clips to upload, footage on your Mac

Along with the many effects Apple brought back to *iMovie* with the release of the *iLife '09* suite, new and powerful tools have been added to this video editing application. A few years ago, certain features would have only been available to professional users who could afford software costing thousands of pounds.

One such feature is **Stabilization**. Using technology inherited from its acquisition of *Shake* seven years ago, Apple has brought digital motion-smoothing to the masses of amateur Mac-owning filmmakers.

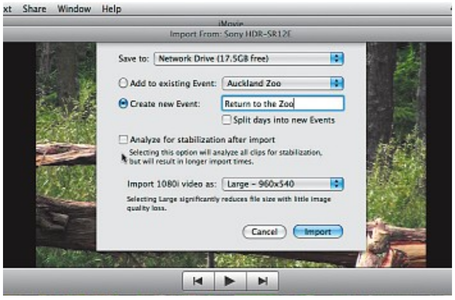
Holding a camera by hand rather than leaving it on a tripod or any other stationary object will lead to small amounts of jerkiness, no matter how still you try to be. This gets worse if you're filming as you're walking or in a moving vehicle. What the **Stabilization** feature does is analyse that footage frame by frame, determine which part of the shot you meant to focus on, and attempt to keep it as still as possible throughout the clip's duration. This is achieved by zooming into your shot and rotating the image to compensate for the jitters and the results are often staggering: your handheld shots look like they were taken with a tripod or a dolly.

> *"Apple has brought motion-smoothing to the masses of amateur Mac-owning filmmakers"*

Zooming into your image means that you will lose some information around the edges. It also means that you may lose a little quality, but if you're shooting using one of the new HD cameras and upload your work to YouTube or MobileMe, you'll have enough pixels to spare.

This tutorial will show you the three ways you can apply stabilisation to your footage and even show you how you can tweak the parameters should you feel that *iMovie* zoomed in too much or made your shot too stable for your needs.
**Steve Paris**

# HOW TO / Find your way around Stabilization

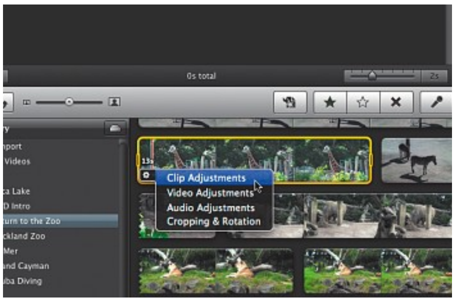

Share
Window
Help
iMovie
Import From: Sony HDR-SR12E

Save to: Network Drive (17.5GB free)
○ Add to existing Event: Auckland Zoo
● Create new Event: Return to the Zoo
☐ Split days into new Events
☐ Analyze for stabilization after import
Selecting this option will analyze all clips for stabilization, but will result in longer import times.
Import 1080i video as: Large – 960x540
Selecting Large significantly reduces file size with little image quality loss.

Cancel
Import

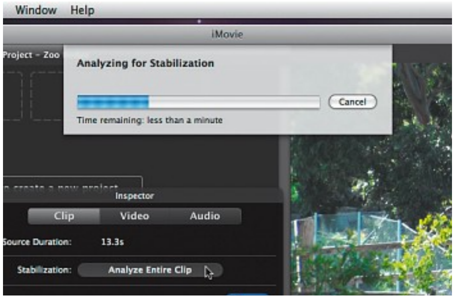
## 01 Importing footage

Connect your camcorder to your Mac and *iMovie* automatically brings up the **Import** window. You can choose to analyse your footage as you bring it in, but this can take ages and you may not wish to apply stabilisation to all your clips. We'll deal with jittery shots later.


0s total
Clip Adjustments
Video Adjustments
Audio Adjustments
Cropping & Rotation

## 02 Adjusting in Events

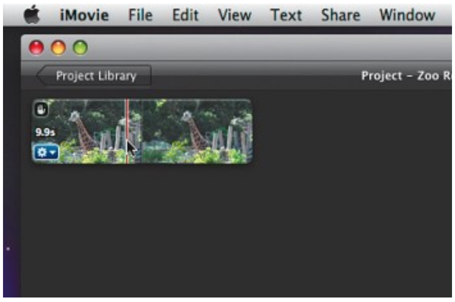
You already know that you can apply effects and alterations to your clips once you've added them to a project. You can do the same in the **Events** section: mouse over a clip there to reveal a cog wheel button, bottom-left of that footage. Click on it and select **Clip Adjustments**.


Window
Help
iMovie
Analyzing for Stabilization
Cancel
Time remaining: less than a minute
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio

Source Duration: 13.3s
Stabilization: Analyze Entire Clip

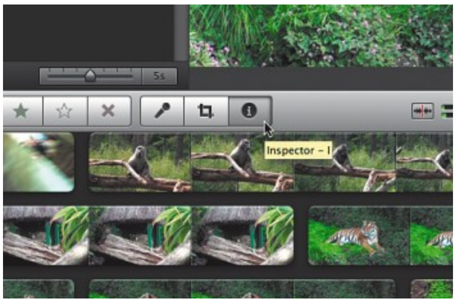
## 03 Analysing...

You can perform adjustments to the shot's audio and video by clicking of their respective tabs, but the tool we're interested in is in the **Clip** tab. Click on the **Analyze Entire Clip** button. Depending on the clip's length, this could take some time.


iMovie
File
Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Project Library
Project – Zoo R
9.9s

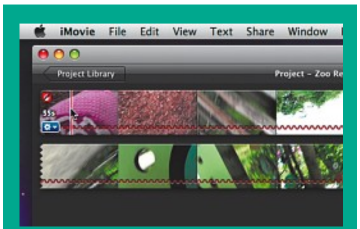
## 04 Adding to a project

Once complete, the clip appears unchanged (except maybe for red squiggles at the bottom – see Quick Tip). However, drag it to a project to see that the jitter is greatly minimised or is gone altogether. The image also appears to be zoomed in somewhat.


5s
Inspector – I

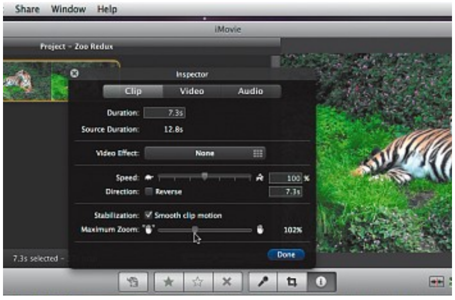
## 05 Revealing the Inspector

In order to understand what has happened, select that footage in your project and click on the **i** button in the toolbar to reveal the **Inspector** window (it's the same window that is summoned by using the **Clip Adjustments** command described in Step 2).


iMovie
File
Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Project Library
Project – Zoo Re

## QUICK TIP

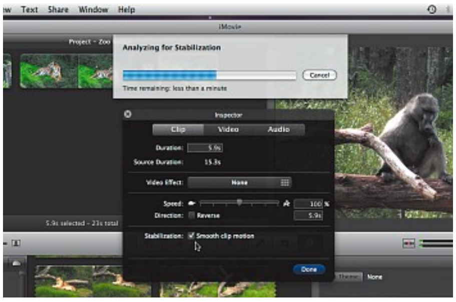
**Stabilization** cannot work miracles: clips that are too jittery will have red squiggles underneath them. This doesn't mean it hasn't worked: add an area free of squiggles to a project and you'll see the unwanted motion has been minimised. If *iMovie* has to zoom in more than 150%, it will judge the shot to be too unstable.


Share
Window
Help
iMovie
Project – Zoo Redux
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Done
7.3s selected

Duration: 7.3s
Source Duration: 12.8s
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse 7.3s
Stabilization: ☑ Smooth clip motion
Maximum Zoom: 102%

## 06 The Zoom slider

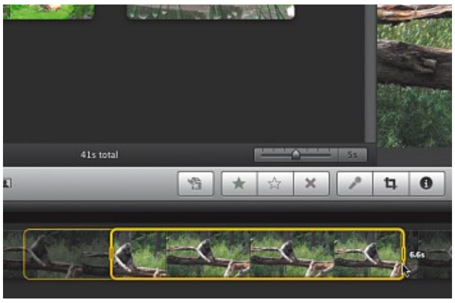
The window varies slightly from when you select a clip in the **Event** section. Bottom of it is the **Stabilization** area and a slider set to the far right. Drag it back to the left to increase the jitter and zoom out of your shot. A value of 100% means no stabilisation has been applied.


Text
Share
Window
Help
iMovie
Project – Zoo
Analyzing for Stabilization
Cancel
Time remaining: less than a minute
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Done
5.9s selected – 23s total

Duration: 5.9s
Source Duration: 15.3s
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse 5.9s
Stabilization: ☑ Smooth clip motion

## 07 Analysing project clips

You can apply stabilisation to a clip already in a project: select the **Clip Adjustments** section again. There is no slider in the **Stabilization** section since it isn't yet active. Tick the **Smooth Clip Motion** box for *iMovie* to analyse only that portion of your footage.


41s total
5s
6.6s

## 08 Analyse after extending

It is possible to increase the length of a stabilised clip by using the **Clip Trimmer** tool (Window > Clip Trimmer). However, if you do this, *iMovie* will have to re-analyse your footage to take into account the added parts of your clip. ●

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aria.co.uk
microdirect.co.uk
yoyotech.co.uk
play.com
advancetec.co.uk

**Working with digital video can be a cinch if you know how, that is...**

# Understand digital video

## The world of DV can be daunting so here's our expert guide to help you out

Digital video on computers has come a long way in a relatively short time, and Macs have been at the forefront of its development. Apple introduced *QuickTime* back in 1991, a year before Microsoft released its own media player, and at the time it was revolutionary. Now, of course, we're used to video playback on all kinds of devices, but as more and more digital video formats have been created by competing companies, it's become harder for the average Mac user to know which to use and which are best for specific applications. The good news is that despite the many formats and codecs that exist, unless you're working in professional video production, you only have to use a few. The trick is in knowing what's best for the task you wish to achieve.

Video has always been something of a battleground when it comes to formats, with competing interests trying to push their own solutions. VHS tape won out over Betamax and more recently, Blu-ray beat HD-DVD in the race to become the dominant hi-def DVD format. Between those two events, many formats have come and gone, some better remembered than others. S-VHS, Video8, Hi8, Digital8, Laserdisc, VCD, MiniDV and more have flourished and then died as the pace of technology has overtaken them. Practically all video is now edited and stored on computers, something that Apple helped to kickstart for home users when it introduced *iMovie*.

> *"Practically all video is edited and stored on computers… something Apple helped kickstart"*

### High quality, small file size

Compression is at the heart of digital video, with the goal being to achieve higher quality at smaller file sizes. Modern digital camcorders record in compressed formats, often directly to

**»QUICK TIP**

*Perian*, free from **www.perian.org**, adds compatibility for audio and video formats that your Mac doesn't support. It lets you open more video file types than you could otherwise do.

## QUICK TIP

YouTube, BBC iPlayer and more or less all other leading websites now deliver their videos in Flash format, thanks to its cross-platform appeal and efficiency. You can encode your own movies to Flash format, though sites like YouTube will convert most video formats automatically.

internal hard drives or memory cards. This makes transferring movies to your Mac much simpler since they're already in a computer-readable format. Any kind of video can be digitised using the correct interface, which for an older camera can mean using composite or component video signal through phono plugs or for a newer camera, an HDMI port. Many cameras still use a direct FireWire capture system or in some cases, USB 2.0. These usually represent the simplest way to get film from a camera into your Mac as they don't involve a special interface or converter box.

When working with digital video you will need to know a couple of things about the way it operates. You will probably have seen different file formats such as MOV, AVI, WMV and so on. These formats are designed to be used with different types of software, though many can be opened by several different programs. MOV files are generally associated with QuickTime, while WMV works with Windows Media Player and AVI files will often work in either application. Each movie format is also capable of using a variety of codecs – that is to say an algorithm used to compress the video. There are quite a few different codecs around, with varying levels of quality. If you're working on a Mac, it's possible and probably even sensible to stick to using just a couple of formats and codecs. MOV, MP4, M4V and DV files are all Mac-friendly, whereas WMV, DIVX and AVI are all much more Windows-centric and, therefore, not the best formats to work with natively on a Mac without first converting them.

My trip abroad 2009.mov
00:00:35

Use the Movie Inspector window in QuickTime Player to view important information like compressor type, frame size and bit rate of video files.

> *"If you're working on a Mac, it's possible (and sensible) to stick to using just a couple of formats"*

### Capturing video

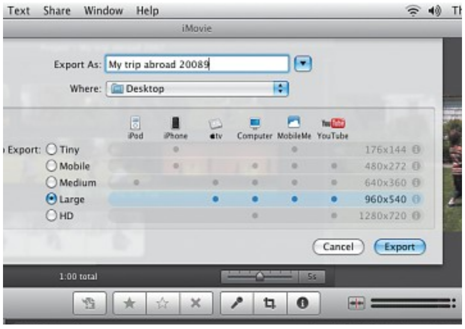
It's advisable when capturing video to do so at the highest quality that's available to you. Compressing video results in a loss of quality so even if you recompress a file later using higher-quality settings, you won't actually be adding any visual fidelity, just empty file size. Modern Macs and hard drives can easily cope with high-quality video – even *iMovie* supports HD video, so you won't need to worry about playback. That said, truly uncompressed video creates very large files extremely quickly and may well be overkill for most simple projects. The optimum capture settings for *iMovie '08* or *'09* are more or less determined for you. This is because the software will capture using its own codec and quality settings, and can use clips with different codecs within a project if you import them from other sources. However, you'll find that *Final Cut* allows much more freedom to specify capture settings, but again, there's not much point capturing far above or below the quality of the video you're importing. It's best to match the project set-up to the video you're importing – *Final Cut Express 4* can

## HOW TO / Deal with obscure codecs

While *QuickTime* is great, it can't cope with absolutely all of the weird codecs that you can come across when dealing with digital video from different places. As well as unhelpful Microsoft-only codecs, there's the open source community coming out with non-standard software that an out-of-the-box Mac won't play. The answer is either to re-encode these files, which can take time and isn't always possible, or to try and play them with *VLC Media Player*, available for free from **www.videolan.org**. This isn't perhaps the most elegant piece of software for the Mac, but it is capable of playing back videos that nothing else will open thanks to the multitude of obscure codecs that it supports. It's not perfect although it is updated regularly and while you may not want to use it as your main media player for regular files (preferring *QuickTime* or *iTunes*), it can be a lifesaver when dealing with strange video files. Dig a little deeper and it supports other things like web radio playback, playlists, subtitling and setting up a web stream. Even *VLC* can sometimes struggle with MPEG files, and if you're having lots of problems, try *MPEG Streamclip*, free from **www.squared5.com**. This is particularly adept at dealing with stream-based MPEG files and it can also edit and convert them, as well as being able to download any web videos from YouTube.

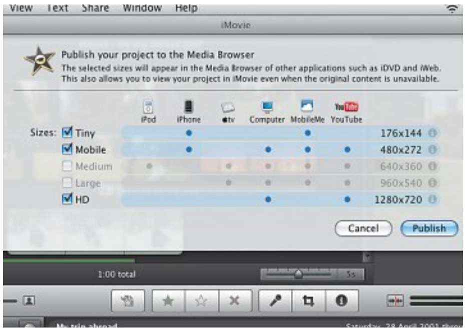
VLC Media Player can handle some of the more obscure video formats.

# HOW TO / Export a movie from iMovie in different formats


Text Share Window Help
iMovie
Export As: My trip abroad 20089
Where: Desktop
iPod iPhone tv Computer MobileMe YouTube
Export: ○ Tiny 176x144
○ Mobile 480x272
○ Medium 640x360
● Large 960x540
○ HD 1280x720
Cancel Export
1:00 total

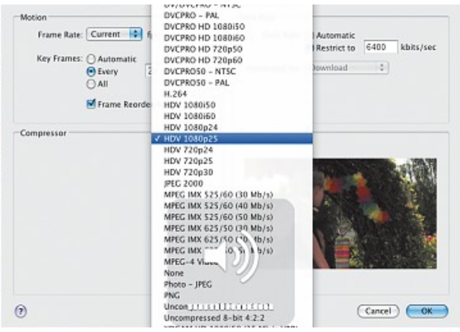
## 01 Finish your movie

When you've finished your movie, consider its destination. *iMovie '08* and *'09* provide a handy list of presets for exporting, which you will find by going to the **Share** menu. Each option reveals different presets sorted by target device such as **iPod**, **Apple TV** etc.


View Text Share Window Help
iMovie
Publish your project to the Media Browser
The selected sizes will appear in the Media Browser of other applications such as iDVD and iWeb. This also allows you to view your project in iMovie even when the original content is unavailable.
iPod iPhone tv Computer MobileMe YouTube
Sizes: ☑ Tiny 176x144
☑ Mobile 480x272
☐ Medium 640x360
☐ Large 960x540
☑ HD 1280x720
Cancel Publish
1:00 total

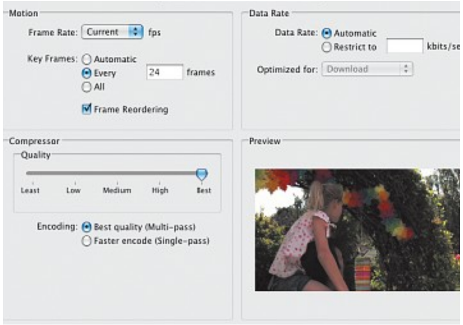
## 02 Share to Media Browser

Since version *'08, iMovie* has featured a **Media Browser** option when exporting. For each of the options, it will output a different version of the movie based on the target device or service, and it will appear in the **Movies** list for that particular application.


Motion
Frame Rate: Current
Key Frames: ○ Automatic
● Every
○ All
☑ Frame Reordering
Compressor
DVCPRO - PAL
DVCPRO HD 1080i50
DVCPRO HD 1080i60
DVCPRO HD 720p50
DVCPRO HD 720p60
DVCPRO50 - NTSC
DVCPRO50 - PAL
H.264
HDV 1080i50
HDV 1080i60
HDV 1080p24
✓ HDV 1080p25
HDV 720p24
HDV 720p25
HDV 720p30
JPEG 2000
MPEG IMX 525/60 (30 Mb/s)
MPEG IMX 525/60 (40 Mb/s)
MPEG IMX 525/60 (50 Mb/s)
MPEG IMX 625/50 (30 Mb/s)
MPEG-4 Video
None
Photo - JPEG
PNG
Uncompressed 8-bit 4:2:2
Automatic
Restrict to 6400 kbits/sec
Download
Cancel OK

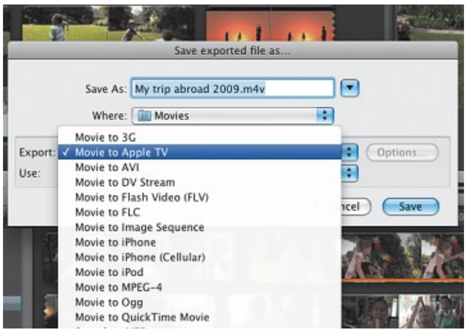
## 03 Export using QuickTime

For more control, choose to **Export Using QuickTime**. Then, click the **Options** button. For a high-quality movie, select an export quality equivalent to the quality of the source. Here, we chose an HDV 1080p export. The available codecs will depend on your installed software.


Motion
Frame Rate: Current fps
Key Frames: ○ Automatic
● Every 24 frames
○ All
☑ Frame Reordering
Data Rate
Data Rate: ● Automatic
○ Restrict to kbits/sec
Optimized for: Download
Compressor
Quality
Least Low Medium High Best
Encoding: ● Best quality (Multi-pass)
○ Faster encode (Single-pass)
Preview

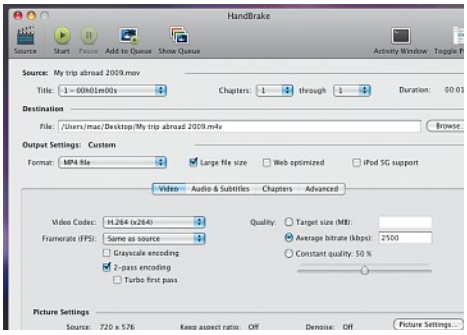
## 04 Use compression wisely

For a smaller file size maintaining good quality, choose H.264 and then a high- or best-quality setting. You might have to try a couple of exports to see what works best, then make a note of the settings for future reference.


Save exported file as...
Save As: My trip abroad 2009.m4v
Where: Movies
Export:
Use:
Movie to 3G
✓ Movie to Apple TV
Movie to AVI
Movie to DV Stream
Movie to Flash Video (FLV)
Movie to FLC
Movie to Image Sequence
Movie to iPhone
Movie to iPhone (Cellular)
Movie to iPod
Movie to MPEG-4
Movie to Ogg
Movie to QuickTime Movie
Options...
Cancel Save

## 05 Use a preset

From the **Export Movie** menu you can choose from ready-made presets, say for the Apple TV, iPhone or iPod. These might not let you change settings, but they will ensure the file is the right format, data rate and frame size.


HandBrake
Source Start Pause Add to Queue Show Queue Activity Window Toggle Presets
Source: My trip abroad 2009.mov
Title: 1 - 00h01m00s Chapters: 1 through 1 Duration: 00:01
Destination
File: /Users/mac/Desktop/My trip abroad 2009.m4v Browse...
Output Settings: Custom
Format: MP4 file ☑ Large file size ☐ Web optimized ☐ iPod 5G support
Video Audio & Subtitles Chapters Advanced
Video Codec: H.264 (x264) Quality: ○ Target size (MB):
Framerate (FPS): Same as source ● Average bitrate (kbps): 2500
☐ Grayscale encoding ○ Constant quality: 50 %
☑ 2-pass encoding
☐ Turbo first pass
Picture Settings
Source: 720 x 576 Keep aspect ratio: Off Denoise: Off Picture Settings...

## 06 Use a third-party solution

*Handbrake*, a free download, can convert many kinds of movie file into formats compatible with your iPod, iPhone, Mac or Apple TV. Specify the input file then choose from the presets, tweaking them for higher quality or smaller files.

handle DV, HDV and AVCHD amongst others. It's always worth restating that you should always capture at a quality equal to or slightly above that of the footage you're importing. Memory cards will eventually get wiped and overwritten and tape can very easily corrupt, so it's worth having a full-quality copy of your raw files. Archiving to large external hard drives is mostly inexpensive, and Blu-ray DVD burning is approaching the point when it will become cost effective. When you export a finished movie project from *iMovie* or *Final Cut*, you have many compression options depending on the target media but the important thing is to always be starting from the maximum quality video available to you.

## Exporting options

When exporting a movie there are a few things to consider. The first is that there's no point in exporting at a quality higher than that of the original movie. If you're exporting from *iMovie* you have several options.

> *"There's no point in exporting your video at a quality higher than that of the original movie..."*

The **Share** and **Export Movie** menus contain presets for iPod, iPhone, Apple TV, computer, MobileMe and YouTube, each with a preset frame size and bit rate. For better control over the export, choose Share > Export Using QuickTime. Choose **Movie to QuickTime Movie** then hit the **Options** button to choose a format. Under **Video Settings** choose a compression type and quality.

The list of codecs available will depend on what's installed on your Mac. If you're working with 720, 1080p or higher HD, you will be able to output a movie at that quality, remembering to match the frame rate to 24, 25 or 30 depending on your

## QUICK TIP

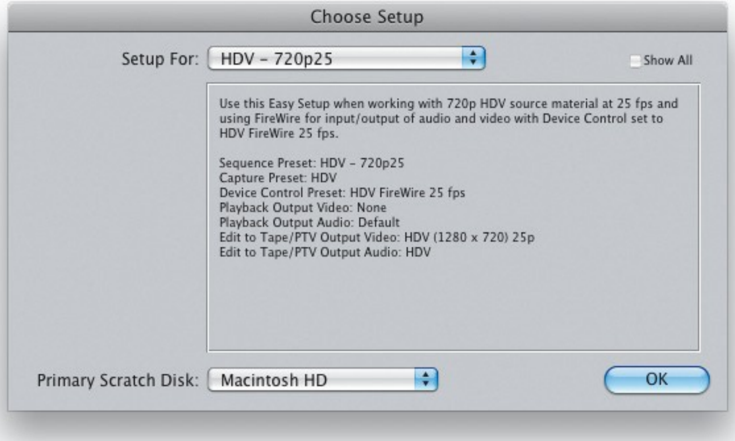
HDMI connects digital devices, streaming uncompressed digital data between them. Apple TV connects, plus a DVI to HDMI lead runs a mini to an HDTV.

### »QUICK TIP

elgato turbo.264 HD

Digitising video or converting between video formats can take a while, which is where Elgato's Turbo.264 HD device can help. It has its own processor, taking the load off your Mac and seriously decreasing your video conversion time.

project. H.264 is a video standard that Apple has thrown its weight behind, and is a key part of *iTunes*, *Final Cut* and its other video-capable apps along, to a lesser extent with the related codec MPEG-4. H.264-encoded movies offer high-quality visuals but at a significantly lower bit rate and, therefore, file size than other codecs such as the MPEG2 used in DVDs. *iMovie*'s export presets use H.264, so it's a pretty safe bet if you're going to be playing the movie on other Macs or uploading it to the web. If you are compressing a movie on export, sticking with MOV, M4V or MP4 files and using these codecs should give you a smooth ride.



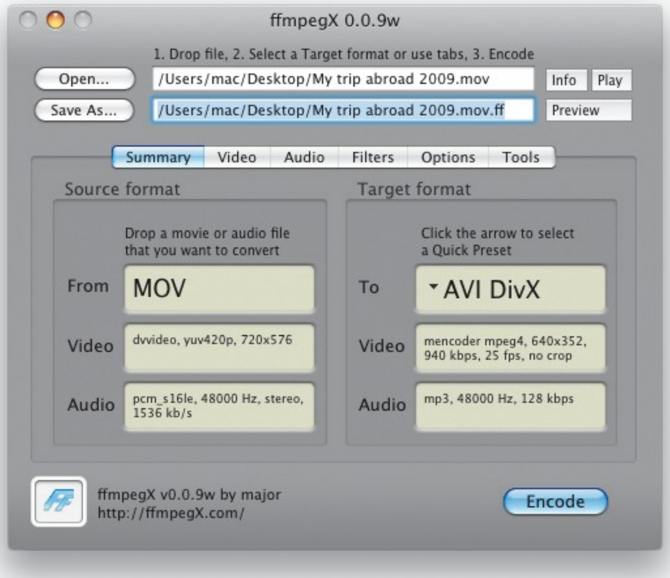
Setup For: HDV – 720p25

Use this Easy Setup when working with 720p HDV source material at 25 fps and using FireWire for input/output of audio and video with Device Control set to HDV FireWire 25 fps.

Sequence Preset: HDV – 720p25
Capture Preset: HDV
Device Control Preset: HDV FireWire 25 fps
Playback Output Video: None
Playback Output Audio: Default
Edit to Tape/PTV Output Video: HDV (1280 x 720) 25p
Edit to Tape/PTV Output Audio: HDV

Primary Scratch Disk: Macintosh HD

**Final Cut lets you set up a project to match the format of the footage you are importing.**



1. Drop file, 2. Select a Target format or use tabs, 3. Encode

/Users/mac/Desktop/My trip abroad 2009.mov
/Users/mac/Desktop/My trip abroad 2009.mov.ff

Source format
Drop a movie or audio file that you want to convert
From: MOV
Video: dvvideo, yuv420p, 720x576
Audio: pcm_s16le, 48000 Hz, stereo, 1536 kb/s

Target format
Click the arrow to select a Quick Preset
To: AVI DivX
Video: mencoder mpeg4, 640x352, 940 kbps, 25 fps, no crop
Audio: mp3, 48000 Hz, 128 kbps

ffmpegX v0.0.9w by major
http://ffmpegX.com/

**ffmpeg is a free movie converter that can convert to Flash and DVD formats.**

iPods and iPhones require particular video formats and you'll find the precise details at www.apple.com/iphone/specs.html. These are also the only file types that *iTunes* and the Apple TV will accept. It's best when converting to go for the maximum bit rate and frame size to ensure an optimum viewing experience. If you're going to be watching on the device's screen, choosing H.264 encoding will offer good quality at a smaller file size. If you're going to be hooking it to a TV, consider MPEG-4 as this produces bigger files but scales up more effectively. Where you own the copyright to a DVD – say, a home movie, you can rip it to view on an iPhone, iPod or Apple TV using software like *Handbrake*, *Podner* or *Roxio Crunch*. In fact, these programs allow you to convert movies in less useful formats into Mac-friendly versions for use in *iTunes* or on Apple devices. Most of them have presets for your target device, and it's good to select higher-quality options, even though this might make the render take longer. 2-pass encoding yields great results, although it's not as quick.

> *"iPods and iPhones require particular formats, which are the only types iTunes will accept"*

## Viewing your movies

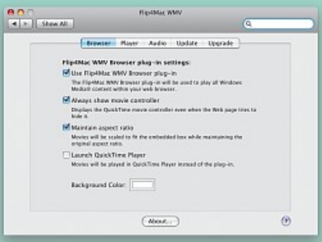
For viewing on your Mac, a high-quality MP4, M4V or MOV file at a higher bit rate of around 5MB/sec is sufficient. If you're hooking up to a large TV, say through an Apple TV or using a Mac as a media hub, aim for the maximum resolution that is reasonable based on the source material. Again, output the source movie to suit the large screen. Be mindful of the maximum data rate allowed by the Apple TV – 3Mbps for MPEG-4 files and 5Mbps for H.264-encoded movies.

You'll discover that, on the whole, sticking with Mac-centric video formats and codecs, as well as maintaining high quality, is the way to go. When you compress for other devices you'll discover what looks good and what doesn't. Modern codecs and graphics cards are very efficient and can offer video quality at file sizes much smaller than before. OS X 10.6 and its forthcoming Grand Central technology harnessing the power of GPUs (as well as CPUs) looks set to take video on the Mac to a whole new level. We can't wait…

**Hollin Jones**

## HOW TO / Handle Windows video file formats

There's no getting around the fact that some videos are going to be encoded in WMV format, the proprietary format of *Windows Media Player*. Although Microsoft did once make a version of *WMP* for the Mac, it has since been discontinued and was never a particularly stellar piece of software anyway. If you head to **www.telestream.net** you can download the WMV components for *QuickTime* that will let you natively open WMV files within *QuickTime Player* or within a webpage in *Safari*. The playback component is free, and if you need to encode to WMV format for a Windows audience, there are several packages that will allow you to do that. We wouldn't recommend working in WMV format on a Mac unless you really need to – say, for example, you were creating a movie going to an all-PC-based company. Of course, when exporting a project you may want to do it in several formats for different audiences.



Flip4Mac WMV Browser plug-in settings:
☑ Use Flip4Mac WMV Browser plug-in
The Flip4Mac WMV Browser plug-in will be used to play all Windows Media® content within your web browser.
☑ Always show movie controller
Displays the QuickTime movie controller even when the Web page tries to hide it.
☑ Maintain aspect ratio
Movies will be scaled to fit the embedded box while maintaining the original aspect ratio.
☐ Launch QuickTime Player
Movies will be played in QuickTime Player instead of the plug-in.
Background Color:

**Play non-protected WMV files on your Mac using a components package.**

Unfortunately, you can't view DRM-protected WMV streams on Mac OS X, unless you boot into Windows using *Parallels*, *VMWare Fusion* or *Boot Camp*.

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# Get organised on a Mac

Use Evernote to keep track of all your snippets and notes

## >> KEY INFO

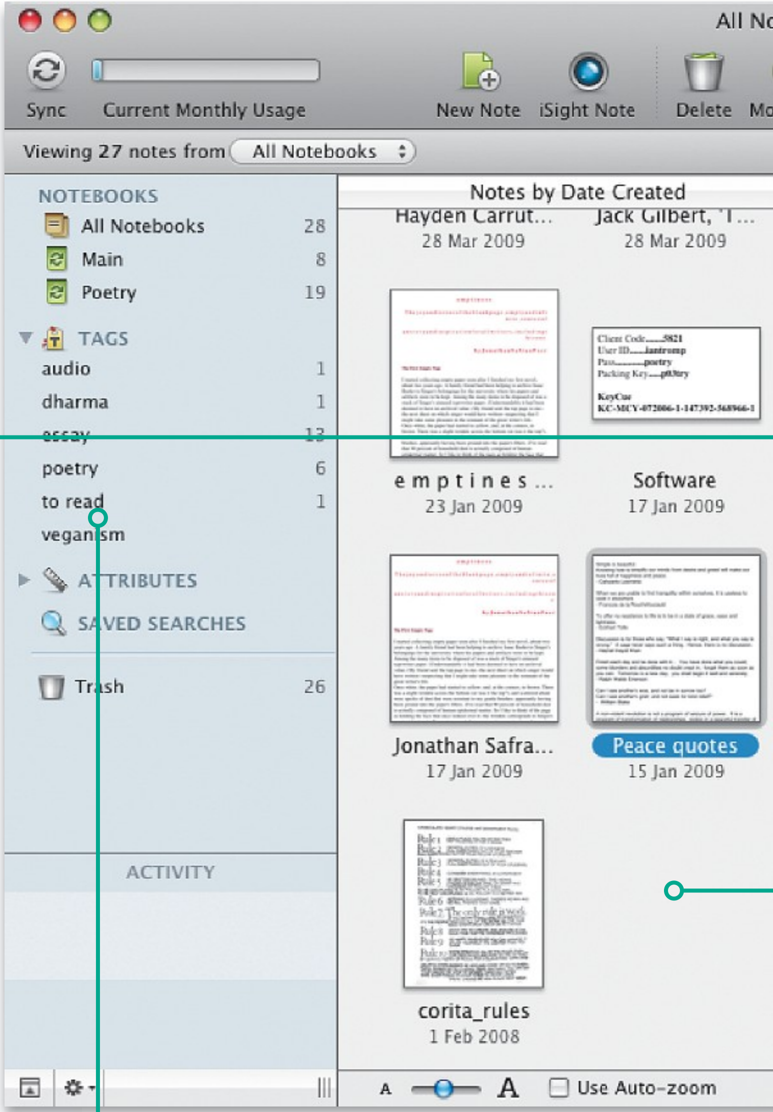
**DIFFICULTY:** Beginner

**TIME NEEDED:** 20 minutes

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** An Evernote account (£FREE or US $5/month), Evernote for Mac, OS X 10.5

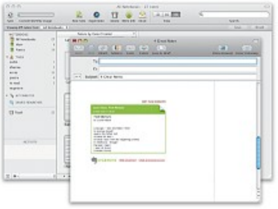
What sets *Evernote* apart from other approaches to digital note-taking is the fact it's available just about anywhere, and that its several clients work together seamlessly. Make a new note on your Mac, and it's automatically synced to the *Evernote* servers – so the next time you open the iPhone app, it's there waiting. Or take a photo on your iPhone and print it from the web interface within moments. This makes working across different locations (or different operating systems – since there's a Windows client too) a doddle!

**Ian Tromp**


All No
Sync
Current Monthly Usage
New Note
iSight Note
Delete
Mo
Viewing 27 notes from All Notebooks
NOTEBOOKS
All Notebooks 28
Main 8
Poetry 19
TAGS
audio 1
dharma 1
essay 13
poetry 6
to read 1
veganism
ATTRIBUTES
SAVED SEARCHES
Trash 26
ACTIVITY
Notes by Date Created
Hayden Carrut... 28 Mar 2009
Jack Gilbert, 'I... 28 Mar 2009
emptines... 23 Jan 2009
Software 17 Jan 2009
Jonathan Safra... 17 Jan 2009
Peace quotes 15 Jan 2009
corita_rules 1 Feb 2008
A
A
Use Auto-zoom

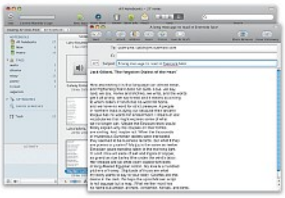
## Emailing out...

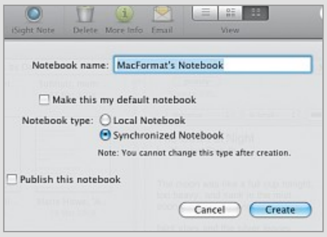
*Evernote* is integrated with *Mail*, so sending notes via email is easy – select what you want to forward on and click **Email** on the toolbar. A new email appears with the notes attached in their original format, so you just need to enter the recipient's address.



## ...and emailing in

You can also forward messages from *Mail* to your *Evernote* account. This can make reading long messages easier by sending them to *Evernote* to read on long journeys. You can do this with the iPhone email client, but *Evernote* offers landscape orientation for easier reading.




iSight Note
Delete
More Info
Email
View

Notebook name: MacFormat's Notebook

☐ Make this my default notebook

Notebook type: ○ Local Notebook
● Synchronized Notebook

Note: You cannot change this type after creation.

☐ Publish this notebook

Cancel Create

## Multiple notebooks

You can separate your notes into different notebooks so that they're easy to keep track of. Just hit ⌘+⇧+N to make a new notebook – you have the option to make this a local-only notebook (only readable on the computer you're currently working on), or to synchronise it along with the rest of your notebooks so it's accessible from your other *Evernote* locations.

## Searching, even within your images

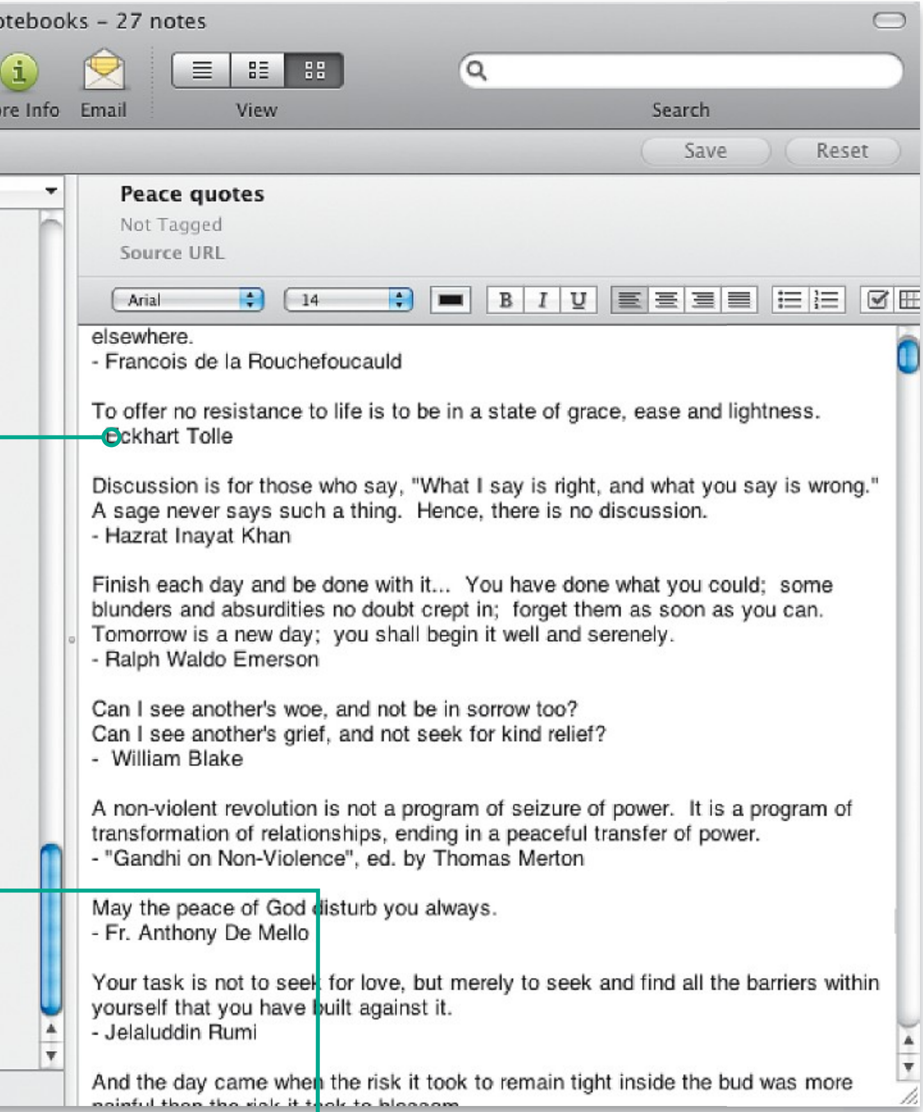
As well as searching the text of all your notes, with *Evernote* you can also search for words within images. So, if you have a photo of a poster, once it's synced with *Evernote*'s servers, it will be searchable – this includes handwriting, such as on a scribble-covered napkin.

## Tags

Tags can also keep related information together. Even when your notes are in themed notebooks, if they share a tag you can display them together, just by clicking on the tag name in *Evernote*'s left-hand panel. This adds flexibility to the clarity of keeping related things in separate notebooks.

## Clipping from the web

Clip text or images from any webpage with the web clipper add-on in *Safari* or *Firefox* (there's also a JavaScript version that works in most other browsers). Select the elements you want to save, click the **Elephant** button, and *Evernote* will open a new note with the content you selected.



Peace quotes
Not Tagged
Source URL

elsewhere.
- Francois de la Rouchefoucauld

To offer no resistance to life is to be in a state of grace, ease and lightness.
- Eckhart Tolle

Discussion is for those who say, "What I say is right, and what you say is wrong."
A sage never says such a thing. Hence, there is no discussion.
- Hazrat Inayat Khan

Finish each day and be done with it... You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it well and serenely.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Can I see another's woe, and not be in sorrow too?
Can I see another's grief, and not seek for kind relief?
- William Blake

A non-violent revolution is not a program of seizure of power. It is a program of transformation of relationships, ending in a peaceful transfer of power.
- "Gandhi on Non-Violence", ed. by Thomas Merton

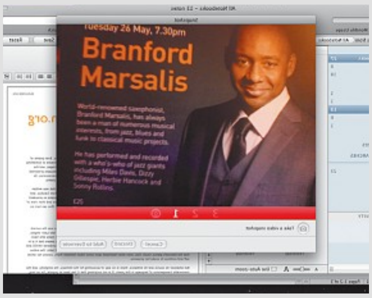
May the peace of God disturb you always.
- Fr. Anthony De Mello

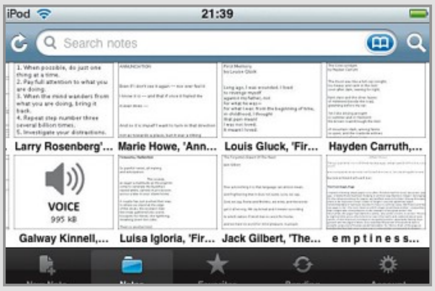
Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.
- Jelaluddin Rumi

And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more

## Images as notes

This is yet another standout feature of *Evernote*: snap a picture on your iPhone, or using your Mac's iSight camera, and you can add it directly to your notebook. This is handy for many reasons, for instance, say you see a poster for a show you want to attend – just take a photo and the details will be recorded. ●



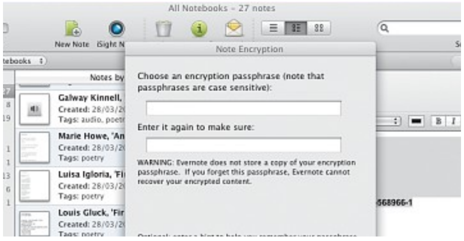


## Evernote on iPhone

The iPhone client contains all your synchronised notebooks, including search facilities of the desktop client. Upload new or saved photos, or make new voice notes. If you know you'll have no internet, remember that only notes you've marked as **Favourites** are available when you're offline.

## Easy encryption

If you want to protect any of your notes, it's easy to encrypt part or all of it: just select the relevant bits, right-click, and select **Encrypt selected text**, then enter an encryption key, and click **OK**. Your text is then hidden until you enter the key again to unlock it.



Choose an encryption passphrase (note that passphrases are case sensitive):

Enter it again to make sure:

WARNING: Evernote does not store a copy of your encryption passphrase. If you forget this passphrase, Evernote cannot recover your encrypted content.

## KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

### File menu shortcuts

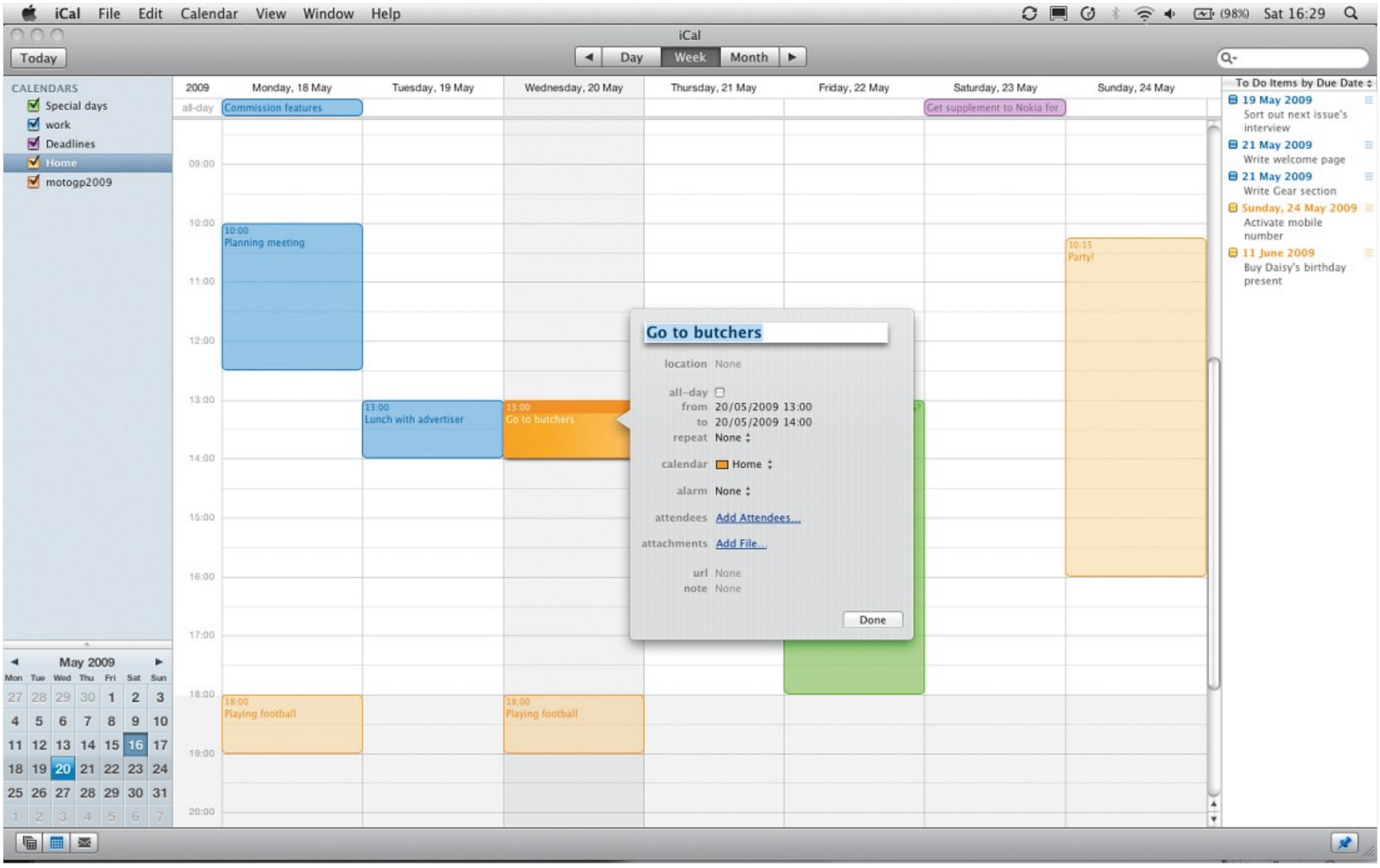
| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘ + N | New note |
| ⌘ + ⇧ + N | New notebook |
| ⌘ + ⌥ + N | New collection window |
| ⌘ + control + S | Sync |
| ⌘ + W | Close window |
| ⌘ + S | Save |

### Edit menu shortcuts

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘ + ⇧ + M | Merge notes |
| ⌘ + [:] | Check spelling and grammar |
| ⌘ + [;] | Check spelling |

### View menu shortcuts

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘ + ⌥ + T | Show/hide toolbar |
| ⌘ + 1 | List view |
| ⌘ + 2 | Mixed view |
| ⌘ + 3 | Thumbnail view |
| ⌘ + ⇧ + F | Show/hide tags |


iCal File Edit Calendar View Window Help
Sat 16:29
iCal
Today
Day Week Month
CALENDARS
Special days
work
Deadlines
Home
motogp2009
2009
Monday, 18 May
Tuesday, 19 May
Wednesday, 20 May
Thursday, 21 May
Friday, 22 May
Saturday, 23 May
Sunday, 24 May
all-day
Commission features
Get supplement to Nokia for
10:00 Planning meeting
13:00 Lunch with advertiser
13:00 Go to butchers
10:15 Party!
18:00 Playing football
18:00 Playing football
May 2009
To Do Items by Due Date
Done

Go to butchers
location None
all-day ☐
from 20/05/2009 13:00
to 20/05/2009 14:00
repeat None
calendar Home
alarm None
attendees Add Attendees...
attachments Add File...
url None
note None

To Do Items by Due Date
19 May 2009 Sort out next issue's interview
21 May 2009 Write welcome page
21 May 2009 Write Gear section
Sunday, 24 May 2009 Activate mobile number
11 June 2009 Buy Daisy's birthday present

# Get started with iCal

**This great application will help you keep on top of your calendar.**

## Discover how organising your life with iCal has never been easier

**>> KEY INFO**

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**TIME NEEDED:** 20 minutes

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** A Mac running Leopard

An area that's often overlooked when it comes to buying a Mac is the high quality of the software that comes bundled with every new machine. *iLife '09* offers up a fantastic suite of media applications including *Mail* and *Address Book*, which make keeping in touch with friends and family easier than ever. Then there's the much-overlooked *iCal*. Here you have a tool that can bring order to the chaos in your life, and enable you to consolidate tasks, appointments and reminders via multiple Macs and devices using MobileMe.

If you've ever forgotten a birthday, anniversary or important meeting, then you'll realise just how invaluable a good calendar application can be.

In this tutorial we're going to introduce you to the basics of *iCal*, revealing the best ways to manage and view your calendar, and highlight some of the new features available in *version 3* (such as default alarms and inline event-editing, which makes amending your tasks a cinch).

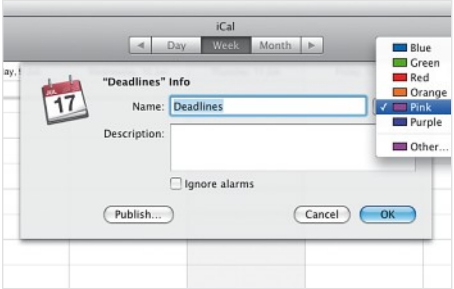
*iCal* doesn't stop at merely listing events, it goes one step further and provides you with added functionality that includes the ability to set alarms, invite others to your events via email, and even share calendars online so that others can view your calendars, and you theirs.

> *"If you've forgotten an important meeting, then you'll realise how invaluable a good calendar app can be"*

And if you don't want to spend time populating your calendar with events, you can take advantage of ready-made calendars available via **www.apple.com/ical/library**, that list things such as sporting fixtures, major public holidays, movie release dates and more. Add to this the MobileMe functionality that enables you to share your calendars between work and home, as well as your iPhone or iPod touch, and you can see why there's no need to look any further than *iCal* if you want to get organised. So let's get started!

**Dan Oliver**

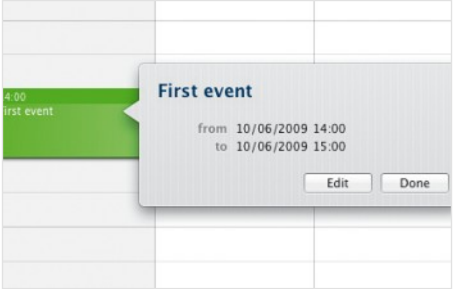
## HOW TO / Get to grips with iCal



"Deadlines" Info
Name: Deadlines
Description:
☐ Ignore alarms

### 01 Creating a new calendar

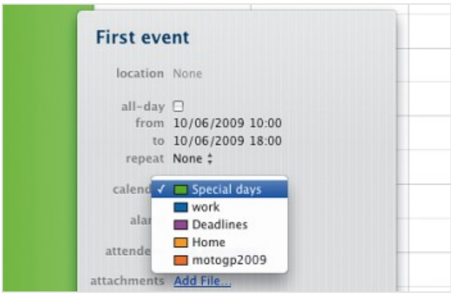
Most *iCal* users organise events into different colour-coded calendars (Work, Family etc). To do this press ⌘+⌥+N, or just hit the + icon at the bottom of the interface. To change a calendar's colour hit ⌘+I, and in the pop-up choose a colour from the drop-down menu.



First event
from 10/06/2009 14:00
to 10/06/2009 15:00

### 02 Adding a new event

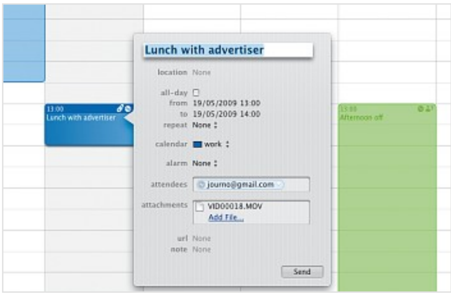
Double-click within the *iCal* interface, where you want an event to be placed – or hit ⌘+N – ensuring you have the right calendar selected (the default length is an hour). Now, to edit your event further, double-click the new event, which opens the editing window.



First event
location None
all-day ☐
from 10/06/2009 10:00
to 10/06/2009 18:00
repeat None

### 03 Editing an event inline

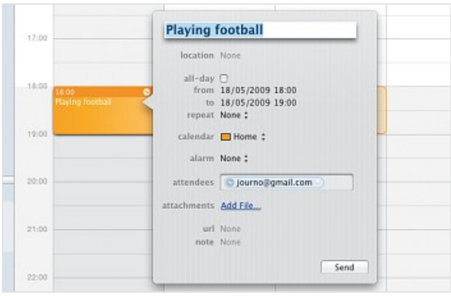
Select **Edit** in the pop-up window. You'll see a few options that you can amend, such as duration or whether to repeat (great for birthdays). You can also change the calendar an event is labelled under, and list an event as **all day**, which changes the way it displays.



Lunch with advertiser
location None
all-day ☐
from 19/05/2009 13:00
to 19/05/2009 14:00
repeat None
calendar work
alarm None
attendees journo@gmail.com
attachments VID00018.MOV
url None
note None

### 04 Event dropbox

The latest version of *iCal* enables you to drag photos, docs and even videos, into a new event, which can be sent to other attendees as attachments (drag and drop only works in **Day** or **Week** view). The files will show up under **Attachments** in the **Edit** section.



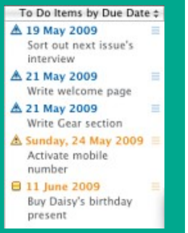
Playing football
location None
all-day ☐
from 18/05/2009 18:00
to 18/05/2009 19:00
repeat None
calendar Home
alarm None
attendees journo@gmail.com
url None
note None

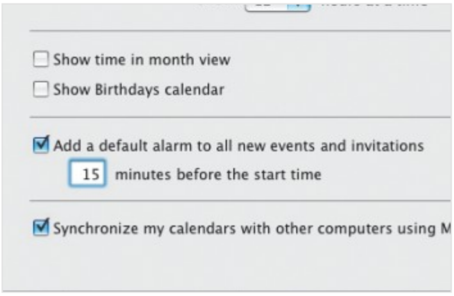
### 05 Invite attendees

To invite others to your event hit ⌘+I with the event selected – or double-click it – and add an email in the **Attendees** field (*iCal* uses **Address Book** to auto-complete). Now select **Send** in the **Edit** area; your guest's confirmation will then appear in the **Notification** section.

### QUICK TIP

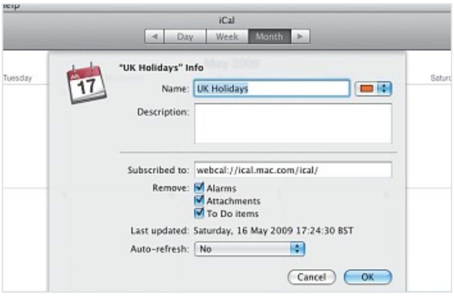
You can also use *iCal* to manage your **To Do** list. Pressing C + K adds a new item to your list, and to view it all you need to do is select the tack at the bottom-right of the interface. If you wish, you can press ⌘+I to edit an item, whilst selected; and change the sort criteria by selecting the dropdown at the top of the list.


To Do Items by Due Date
19 May 2009 Sort out next issue's interview
21 May 2009 Write welcome page
21 May 2009 Write Gear section
Sunday, 24 May 2009 Activate mobile number
11 June 2009 Buy Daisy's birthday present


☐ Show time in month view
☐ Show Birthdays calendar
☑ Add a default alarm to all new events and invitations
15 minutes before the start time
☑ Synchronize my calendars with other computers using M

### 06 Add alarms to all events

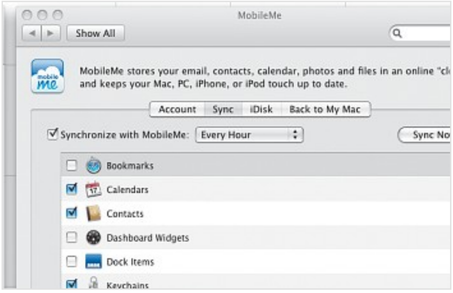
A new feature in *iCal* is the option to automatically add alarms to your new events. To configure this go to iCal > Preferences, select **Add a default alarm...**, and choose when you want it to go off. Now, every event you add will have an alarm.



"UK Holidays" Info
Name: UK Holidays
Description:
Subscribed to: webcal://ical.mac.com/ical/
Remove: ☑ Alarms ☑ Attachments ☑ To Do items
Last updated: Saturday, 16 May 2009 17:24:30 BST
Auto-refresh: No

### 07 Ready-made calendars

Go to **www.apple.com/ical/library** to find ready-made calendars. To add one to *iCal* select the **Download** link in *Safari*, and – in the resulting pop-up – choose **Subscribe**. The calendar settings will now display, and you can choose a new colour etc.



MobileMe stores your email, contacts, calendar, photos and files in an online "cl
and keeps your Mac, PC, iPhone, or iPod touch up to date.
☑ Synchronize with MobileMe: Every Hour
☐ Bookmarks
☑ Calendars
☑ Contacts
☐ Dashboard Widgets
☐ Dock Items
☑ Keychains

### 08 Sync your calendar

Go to iCal > Preferences and check the **MobileMe** box, now hit the **MobileMe** button. In the MobileMe set-up select **Sync** and tick off **Calendars**. Now do this on your Mac (for iPod touch and iPhone go to **Settings** and choose **Mail, Contacts, Calendar**). ●

# Master Tweetie 1.1.1

Tweetie's the best Twitter client, with loads of great features

**>> ON THE DISC**
Find *Tweetie 1.1.1* on this issue's disc.

**>> KEY INFO**

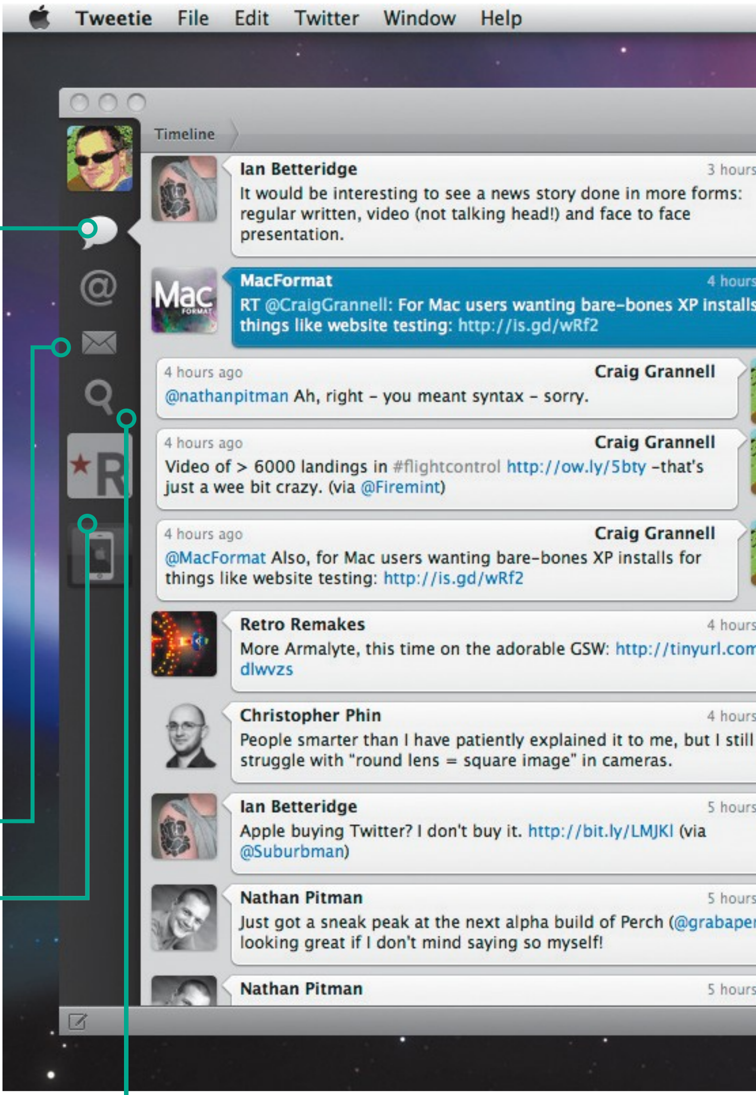
**DIFFICULTY:** Beginner

**TIME NEEDED:** 15 minutes

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** A Mac running Mac OS X 10.5 or later, Tweetie 1.1.1, one or more Twitter accounts

Twitter is a popular online service, akin to microblogging mixed with text messaging. Users post 140-character 'tweets', and Twitter's decision to enable you to 'follow' whoever you choose ensures you only read tweets from parties you're interested in. Although the Twitter website is reasonable, anyone seriously into Twitter should use a dedicated client like *Tweetie*. Grab the ad-supported version from your disc, an account from **www.twitter.com**, and use this tutorial to unearth its secrets.

**Craig Grannell**



**Ian Betteridge** 3 hours
It would be interesting to see a news story done in more forms: regular written, video (not talking head!) and face to face presentation.

**MacFormat** 4 hours
RT @CraigGrannell: For Mac users wanting bare-bones XP installs things like website testing: http://is.gd/wRf2

4 hours ago **Craig Grannell**
@nathanpitman Ah, right – you meant syntax – sorry.

4 hours ago **Craig Grannell**
Video of > 6000 landings in #flightcontrol http://ow.ly/5bty –that's just a wee bit crazy. (via @Firemint)

4 hours ago **Craig Grannell**
@MacFormat Also, for Mac users wanting bare-bones XP installs for things like website testing: http://is.gd/wRf2

**Retro Remakes** 4 hours
More Armalyte, this time on the adorable GSW: http://tinyurl.com dlwvzs

**Christopher Phin** 4 hours
People smarter than I have patiently explained it to me, but I still struggle with "round lens = square image" in cameras.

**Ian Betteridge** 5 hours
Apple buying Twitter? I don't buy it. http://bit.ly/LMJKI (via @Suburbman)

**Nathan Pitman** 5 hours
Just got a sneak peak at the next alpha build of Perch (@grabaper looking great if I don't mind saying so myself!

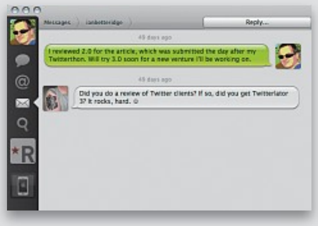
**Nathan Pitman** 5 hours

## Timeline and replies

Click a sidebar account icon and that account's feed is displayed, showing your tweets, those of users you're following, and replies you've been sent. Click the @ symbol and the view shows only replies. Clicking the speech bubble returns to the main feed display. Use the scroll bar, cursor keys or [Spacebar] and ⇧+[Spacebar] to scroll.

## Sending direct

To send a direct (private) message to a Twitter follower, go to File > New Direct Message. Choose a user from the menu (or start typing in the field to snap it to a later part of the list) and proceed as you would for a normal tweet.



49 days ago

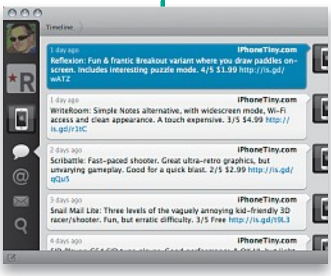
I reviewed 2.0 for the article, which was submitted the day after my Twitterthon. Will try 3.0 soon for a new venture I'll be working on.

49 days ago

Did you do a review of Twitter clients? If so, did you get Twitterlator 3? It rocks, hard. ☺

## Direct messages

Click the envelope to access an account's direct messages, grouped by user. You'll see when the most recent message was and the number of messages in the conversation. Click a user's name to access a conversation, which resembles *iChat*'s display. Note how the path at the top of *Tweetie*'s window shows your location in the Twitter 'hierarchy'.



1 day ago **iPhoneTiny.com**
Reflexion: Fun & frantic Breakout variant where you draw paddles on-screen. Includes interesting puzzle mode. 4/5 $1.99 http://is.gd/wATZ

1 day ago **iPhoneTiny.com**
WriteRoom: Simple Notes alternative, with widescreen mode, Wi-Fi access and clean appearance. A touch expensive. 3/5 $4.99 http://is.gd/r3tC

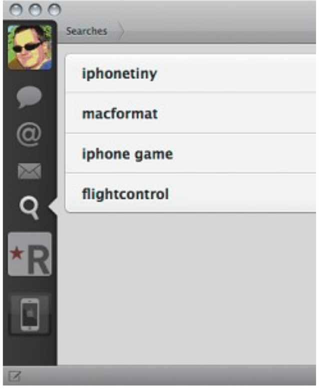
2 days ago **iPhoneTiny.com**
Scribattle: Fast-paced shooter. Great ultra-retro graphics, but unvarying gameplay. Good for a quick blast. 2/5 $2.99 http://is.gd/qQu5

3 days ago **iPhoneTiny.com**
Snail Mail Lite: Three levels of the vaguely annoying kid-friendly 3D racer/shooter. Fun, but erratic difficulty. 3/5 Free http://is.gd/t9L3

4 days ago **iPhoneTiny.com**

## Multiple accounts

You can add further Twitter accounts via the **Accounts** section of *Tweetie*'s preferences (and define notification options for each). Switch between accounts by clicking account icons in the sidebar. On clicking one, the icons for the timeline, replies, direct messages and searches appear beneath it.



iphonetiny
macformat
iphone game
flightcontrol

## Twitter searches

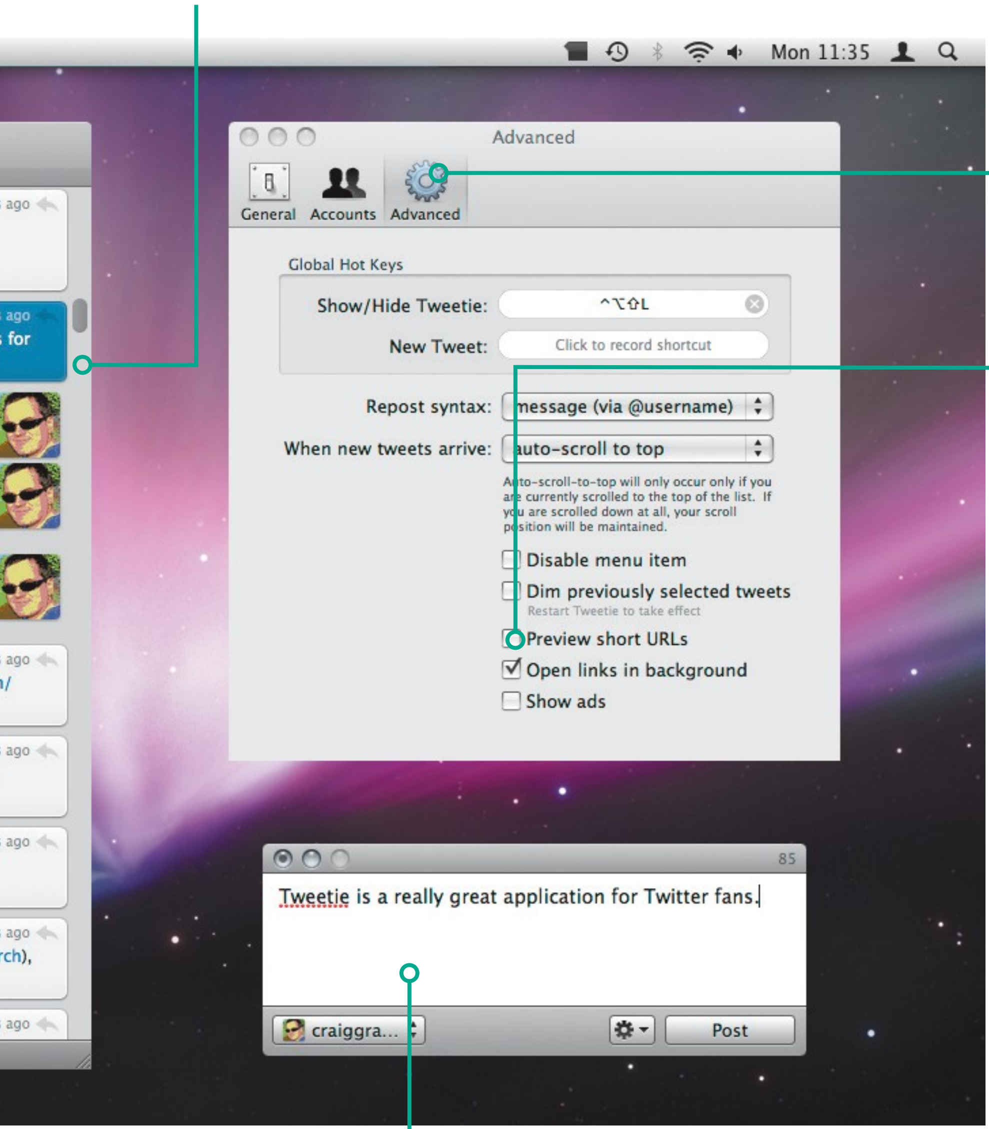
Click the **magnifying glass** icon, type something in the **search** field and hit ⏎ to view relevant tweets. (Note: **http://search.twitter.com/operators** lists operators for advanced searches.) To track a search, click the **star** button to mark it as a favourite. When relevant new tweets are posted, the sidebar **search** icon displays a 'notification' dot.

## User details

Click a user in the timeline or replies feed to display their tweets. Using the horizontal toolbar of icons, you can access replies to the user (@), their favourites (star) and their info (i symbol). The action menu (cog) provides options for replying, sending a direct message or opening the feed in a web browser.

## Tweetie configuration

Via *Tweetie*'s preferences, you can define services used for URL shortening and image posting (via the **General** section) and how the app behaves (via **Advanced**); in the latter section, global hot-keys enable system-wide toggling of *Tweetie*'s visibility and fast access to the **New Tweet** window.



Show/Hide Tweetie: ^⌥⇧L

New Tweet: Click to record shortcut

Repost syntax: message (via @username)

When new tweets arrive: auto-scroll to top

Auto-scroll-to-top will only occur only if you are currently scrolled to the top of the list. If you are scrolled down at all, your scroll position will be maintained.

☐ Disable menu item

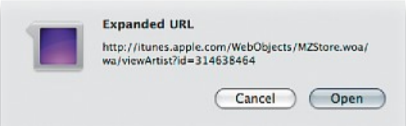
☐ Dim previously selected tweets
Restart Tweetie to take effect

☑ Preview short URLs

☑ Open links in background

☐ Show ads

Tweetie is a really great application for Twitter fans.



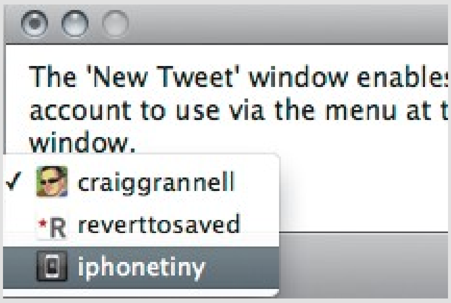
Expanded URL
http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewArtist?id=314638464

## Preview short URLs

If you check Preview short URLs in the Advanced preferences section, short URLs don't immediately open in a browser when clicked in a feed view. Instead, *Tweetie* opens another window, shows the expanded URL and asks for confirmation regarding opening it.

## New Tweet window

Click the icon at the bottom-left of the **Tweetie** window or use File > New Tweet to bring up the **New Tweet** window. The leftmost pop-up enables account selection, and the character count helps you stay within the limit. To post an image, drag it to the window, and shorten URLs via the **action** menu. ●



The 'New Tweet' window enable
account to use via the menu at t
window.

## KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

### Main window

| | |
|---|---|
| [Spacebar] | Page down |
| ⇧+[Spacebar] | Page up |

### New Tweet window

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘+⌥+S | Shorten URLs |

### File menu

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘+N | New Tweet... |
| ⌘+⇧+N | New Direct Message... |

### View menu

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘+U | Go To User... |
| ⌘+⇧+U | My Profile |
| ⌘+⇧+Up arrow | Select Previous Account |

### Select Next Account

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘+1 | Timeline |
| ⌘+2 | Replies |
| ⌘+3 | Direct Messages |
| ⌘+4 | Search |
| ⌘+R | Reply |
| ⌘+⌥+R | Repost... |
| ⌘+D | Direct Message... |
| F | Mark As Favorite... |
| ⌘+⇧+N | Refresh |
| ⌘+K | Mark All As Read |

### Window menu

| | |
|---|---|
| ⌘+K | Show Main Window |

# Get more from your iPhone

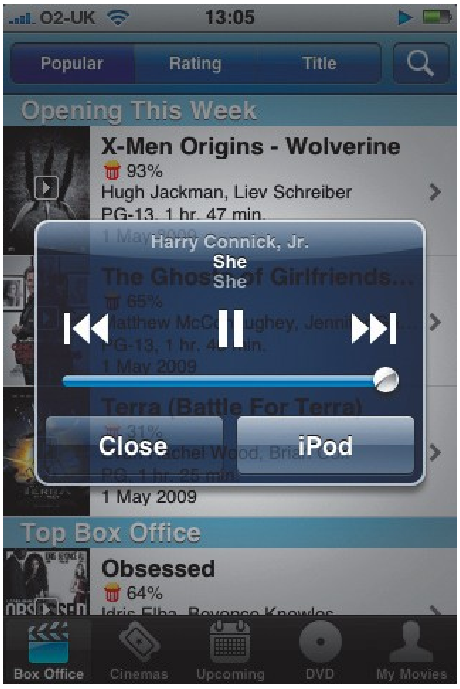
## Ten iPhone shortcuts to make your life easier

**»QUICK TIP**
When viewing a web page in *Safari*, you'll already know that you can zoom in to make an area of text fill the screen by double-tapping on it. There's more you can do though: If you double-tap at the bottom right area of the screen then the web page will scroll down in sections of equal length, making longer passages much easier to navigate.

Apple is known for loading its software with handy shortcuts and tricks to make your life easier. You will struggle to find a definitive list of these in the documentation, and many people actually discover them by accident.

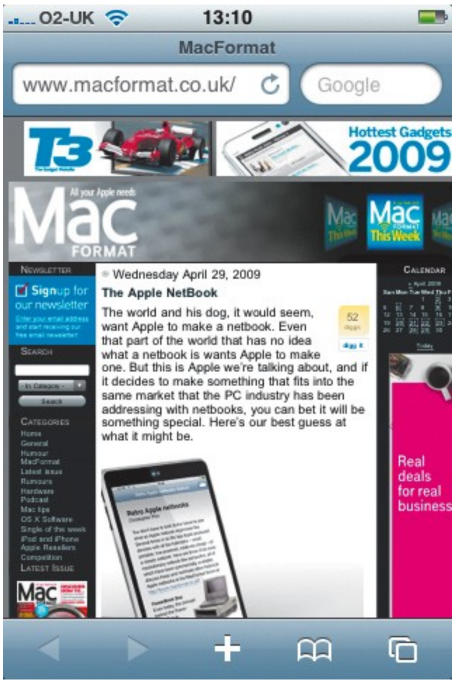
With the iPhone and iPod touch, Apple designed a whole new operating system. Essentially a stripped down version of Mac OS X, the iPhone/iPod OS has some great hidden shortcuts and timesavers, which could make your everyday use of the device quicker and easier. The revolutionary Multi-Touch interface isn't just designed to be tapped, there are actually a host of gestures and movement combinations that perform specific actions. And despite only having two hardware buttons, these work differently depending on how you press them. Some of the tips related to making calls will only work on an iPhone, of course, but most of these shortcuts will also work on the iPod touch.

**Hollin Jones**


O2-UK
13:05
Popular
Rating
Title
Opening This Week
X-Men Origins - Wolverine
93%
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
PG-13, 1 hr. 47 min.
Harry Connick, Jr.
She
She
Close
iPod
1 May 2009
Top Box Office
Obsessed
64%
Box Office
Cinemas
Upcoming
DVD
My Movies

### 01 Show iPod controls

The *iPod* application has the ability to run in the background. If you're using a different app and you want to pause or skip a track, double tap **Home** to display iPod controls.


O2-UK
13:10
MacFormat
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Google
Hottest Gadgets 2009
Mac FORMAT
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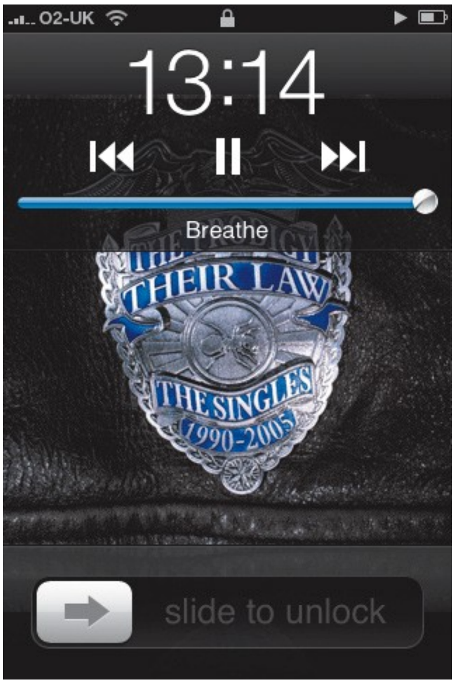
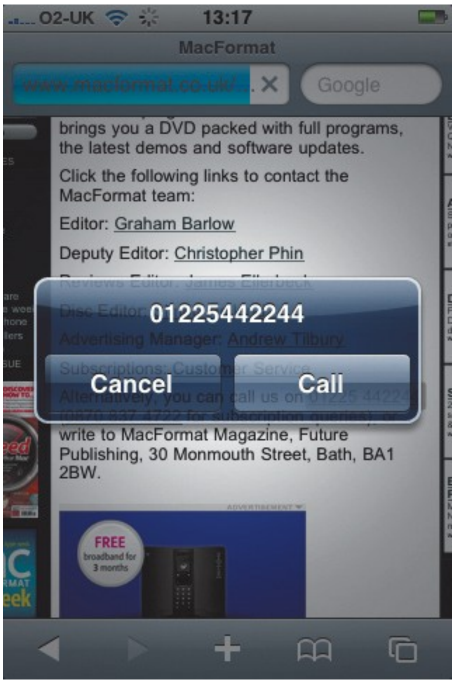
Wednesday April 29, 2009

The Apple NetBook

The world and his dog, it would seem, want Apple to make a netbook. Even that part of the world that has no idea what a netbook is wants Apple to make one. But this is Apple we're talking about, and if it decides to make something that fits into the same market that the PC industry has been addressing with netbooks, you can bet it will be something special. Here's our best guess at what it might be.


O2-UK
13:14
Breathe
THE PRODIGY
THEIR LAW
THE SINGLES
1990-2005
slide to unlock


O2-UK
13:17
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Click the following links to contact the MacFormat team:

Editor: Graham Barlow

Deputy Editor: Christopher Phin

write to MacFormat Magazine, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW.

### 02 Tap the title bar

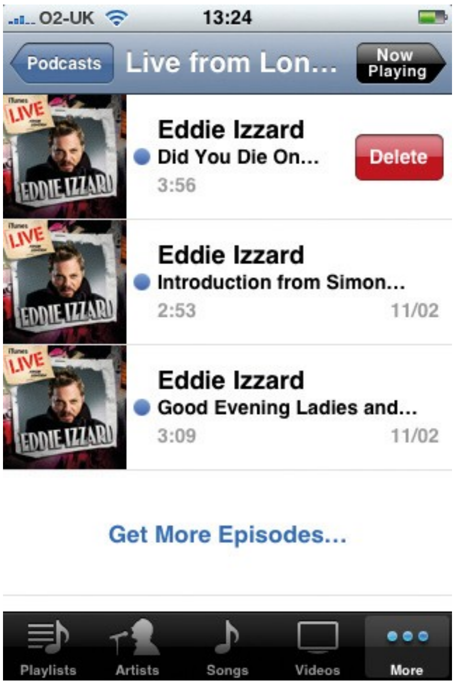
Scrolling to the top of a page in *Safari* can be slow. Double-tap on the title bar where the time is displayed and you will jump back to the top. This also works with SMS conversations.

### 03 Control iPod when locked

If your iPhone/iPod touch is locked but you need to change the volume, pause or skip tracks, double-tap **Home** and you can control the *iPod* app and see what track is playing.

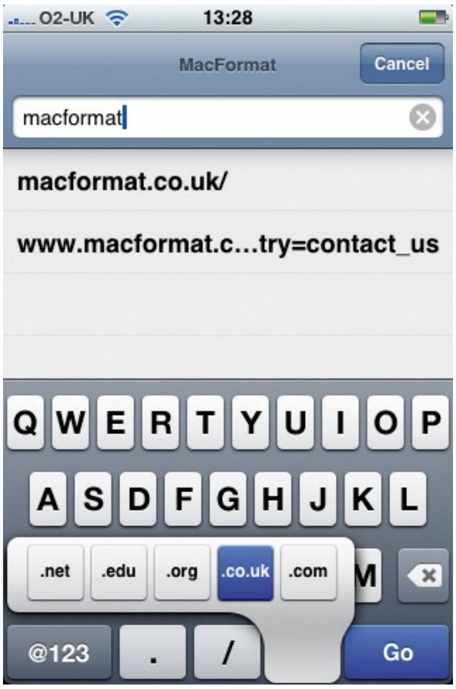
### 04 Make calls from Safari

Phone numbers in *Safari* display as links. If you press and hold on the number for a couple of seconds, it will display in a pop-up window. This also works with web links.


O2-UK
13:24
Podcasts
Live from Lon...
Now Playing
Eddie Izzard
Did You Die On...
3:56
Delete
Eddie Izzard
Introduction from Simon...
2:53
11/02
Eddie Izzard
Good Evening Ladies and...
3:09
11/02
Get More Episodes...
Playlists
Artists
Songs
Videos
More

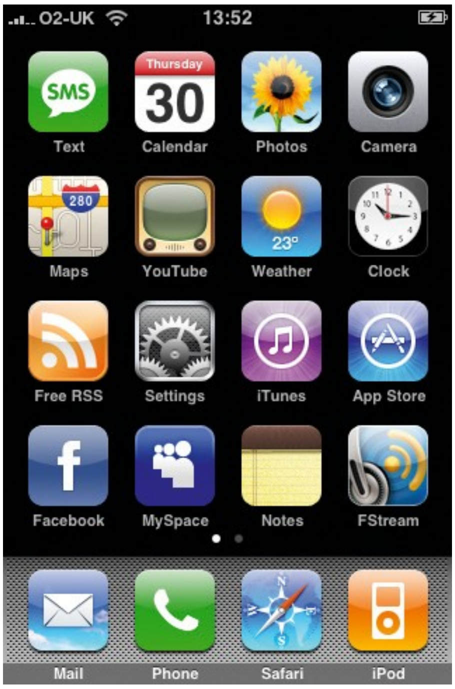
## 05 Quick delete button

You can delete items by swiping your finger across the right side of emails, SMS conversations or podcasts when in **List** view. Videos are marked and erased at the next sync.


O2-UK
13:28
MacFormat
Cancel
macformat
macformat.co.uk/
www.macformat.c...try=contact_us
Q W E R T Y U I O P
A S D F G H J K L
.net .edu .org .co.uk .com
M
@123
.
/
Go

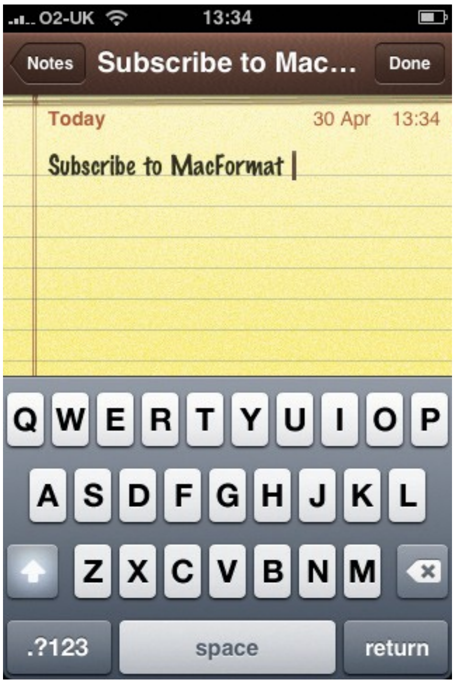
## 06 Quickly add suffixes

In *Mail*, press and hold on the **.com** button to reveal **.net**, **.edu.org** and **.co.uk** shortcuts; just select to enter them. This also works when entering URLs in *Safari*.


O2-UK
13:52
Text
Thursday
30
Calendar
Photos
Camera
Maps
YouTube
Weather
Clock
Free RSS
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Facebook
MySpace
Notes
FStream
Mail
Phone
Safari
iPod

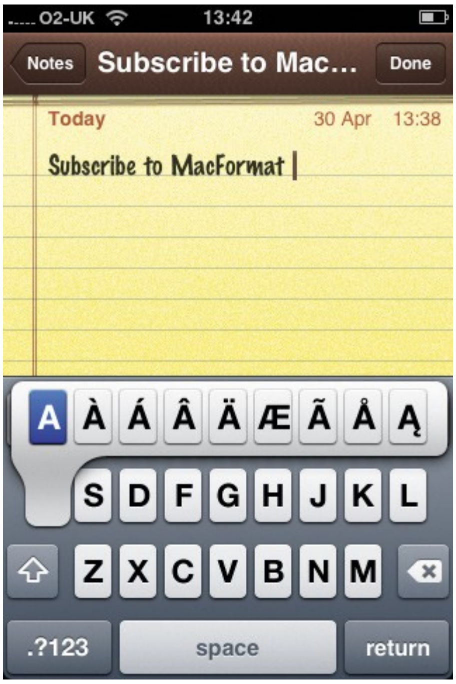
## 07 Force quit apps

If an app freezes, press and hold the **Home** button for around six seconds to force quit it. If an app quits repeatedly by itself it probably needs updating by the developer.


O2-UK
13:34
Notes
Subscribe to Mac...
Done
Today
30 Apr
13:34
Subscribe to MacFormat
Q W E R T Y U I O P
A S D F G H J K L
Z X C V B N M
.?123
space
return

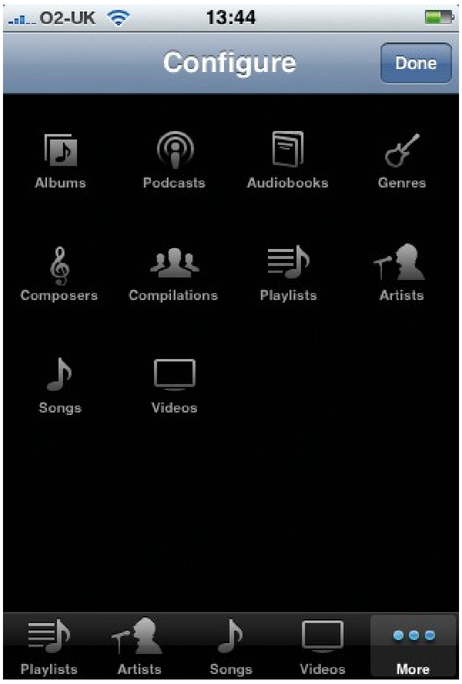
## 08 Fix Caps Lock

With **Caps Lock Enable** on (Settings > General > Keyboard), double-tap **Caps Lock** to fix it on or off. If it's off, click and hold **Caps Lock** then slide over to a letter to capitalise it.


O2-UK
13:42
Notes
Subscribe to Mac...
Done
Today
30 Apr
13:38
Subscribe to MacFormat
A À Á Â Ä Æ Ã Å Ą
S D F G H J K L
Z X C V B N M
.?123
space
return

## 09 Alternative characters

When you are typing, you may want to use non-standard letters. Press and hold certain letters including A, E, I, O or U to access alternative versions for different languages.


O2-UK
13:44
Configure
Done
Albums
Podcasts
Audiobooks
Genres
Composers
Compilations
Playlists
Artists
Songs
Videos
Playlists
Artists
Songs
Videos
More

## 10 Configure iPod controls

In the *iPod* app, go to More > Edit. From the resulting screen you can drag and drop shortcuts into the four slots at the base of the screen for the things you access most often. ●

**>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE**

# Use System Profiler

This issue **Christopher Brennan** troubleshoots the Mac OS

## >> PROFILE

**Name:** Christopher Brennan
**Occupation:** Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
**System(s):** Mac Pro (2x 2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

As someone who often takes calls from frantic Mac users whose computers have stopped working, the one thing I need to get started on a solution is information. Information about what you were attempting to do, which Mac you're using, and what configuration you're running. Simple? It sounds it, but my questions are mostly answered with ums and aahs.

### Need for information

A Mac technician needs to know a basic set of information to help them diagnose your problem. To help me (and other Mac problem-solvers) get a headstart I'm going to show you how to make my life easier by using *System Profiler* to get a full run-down of your system. It will also help with smaller issues. Take, for instance, the fairly bland, but regular, complaint that the WiFi has stopped working on an iMac. It might appear to be a simple inquiry, but bear in mind that there are about 30 different iMac models and some are identifiable only by their processor!

*System Profiler* doesn't just help to diagnose problems like this; it's a treasure trove of useful information that you can use. *System Profiler* can give you the answer to questions like: how much RAM does this machine have and in what configuration? What's the serial number of this machine? And which graphics card do I have? It also provides a useful list of all your applications and version numbers.

> *"System Profiler doesn't just help to diagnose problems; it's a treasure trove of useful information that you can use"*

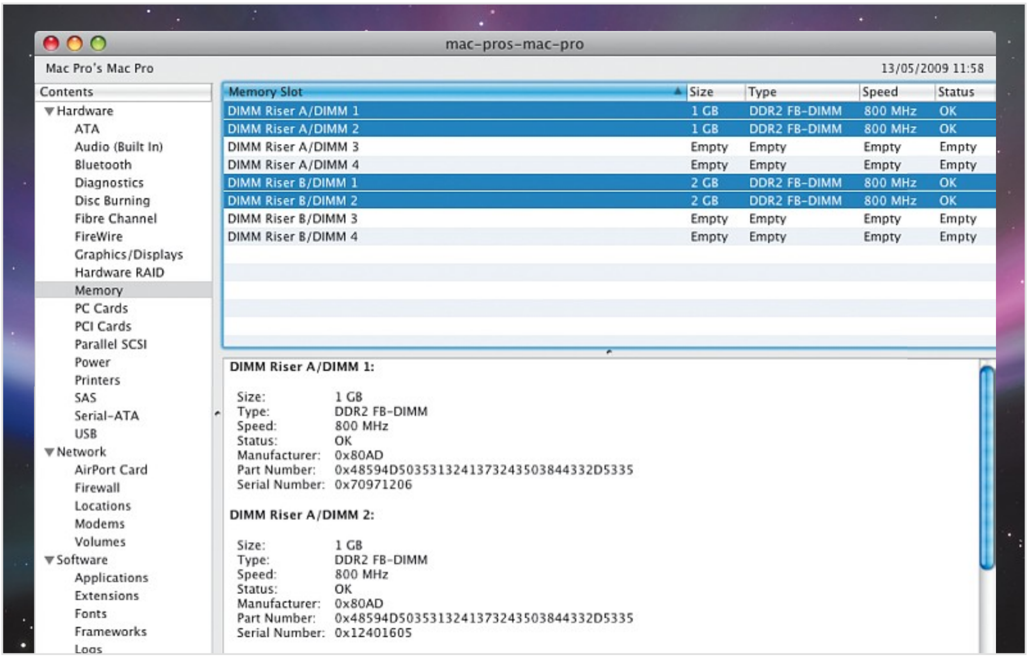
To read your system profile, go to the  menu, select About This Mac, and when the window appears click on More Info…. The System Profiler window is split into two sections, with the contents on the left and information to the right. To see your RAM configuration, click on Memory and you'll see which banks have what memory in, what type and speed it is and its status, which hopefully will read okay. Your serial number can be found by clicking on Hardware; this is useful for finding out your warranty status at https://selfsolve.apple.com/GetWarranty.do. Simply enter the number, select your country, and your support options will be displayed.

### Export information

Having to navigate through the various sections of *System Profiler* is a pain. Luckily you can export the whole report as a text file. This is the file your Mac technician will thank you for. The report is generated when you open the window, so if you've made any changes such as removing a USB peripheral or PCI card that would normally be attached to your Mac, plug them back in and go to View > Refresh or hit ⌘+R. There are three versions of the report, and which you create is up to you; rarely is less information better than too much. To select the report level, go to View and choose from Mini Profile, Basic Profile or Full Profile (⌘+1, 2 and 3 respectively). Now go to File > Save As… and when the dialog box appears change the File Format drop-down to Plain Text (UTF-16). The file will list everything your Mac technician could possibly need to know. Email it to them or print it out to get the full run-down and you'll be a step closer to getting your problem fixed. If you'd like to use *Terminal* instead to see all this information, open *Terminal* (Applications > Utilities) and type:

```
system_profiler
```

Now you'll have everything you need to help your Mac technician. ●



**System Profiler lets you in on your Mac's innermost secrets and is a great help when troubleshooting.**

| Memory Slot | Size | Type | Speed | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DIMM Riser A/DIMM 1 | 1 GB | DDR2 FB-DIMM | 800 MHz | OK |
| DIMM Riser A/DIMM 2 | 1 GB | DDR2 FB-DIMM | 800 MHz | OK |
| DIMM Riser A/DIMM 3 | Empty | Empty | Empty | Empty |
| DIMM Riser A/DIMM 4 | Empty | Empty | Empty | Empty |
| DIMM Riser B/DIMM 1 | 2 GB | DDR2 FB-DIMM | 800 MHz | OK |
| DIMM Riser B/DIMM 2 | 2 GB | DDR2 FB-DIMM | 800 MHz | OK |
| DIMM Riser B/DIMM 3 | Empty | Empty | Empty | Empty |
| DIMM Riser B/DIMM 4 | Empty | Empty | Empty | Empty |

```
DIMM Riser A/DIMM 1:

  Size:           1 GB
  Type:           DDR2 FB-DIMM
  Speed:          800 MHz
  Status:         OK
  Manufacturer:   0x80AD
  Part Number:    0x48594D5035313241373243503844332D5335
  Serial Number:  0x70971206

DIMM Riser A/DIMM 2:

  Size:           1 GB
  Type:           DDR2 FB-DIMM
  Speed:          800 MHz
  Status:         OK
  Manufacturer:   0x80AD
  Part Number:    0x48594D5035313241373243503844332D5335
  Serial Number:  0x12401605
```

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## Mac Pro

### Memory Upgrades

Early MacPro (Pre Jan08)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kingston 4GB (2 x 2GB) Kit 667MHz | £80.22 + Vat | |
| Kingston 8GB (2x 4GB) Kit 667MHz | £188.62 + Vat | NEW ITEM |

MacPro (Pre March09)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kingston 4GB (2 x 2GB) Kit 800MHz | £99.95 + Vat | |
| Kingston 8GB (2 x 4GB) Kit 800MHz | £205.74 + Vat | |

MacPro (Post March09)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kingston 1GB 1066MHz Module | £19.56 + Vat | NEW ITEM |
| Kingston 2GB 1066MHz Module | £33.39 + Vat | NEW ITEM |
| Kingston 6GB Kit (3x2GB)1066MHz | £101.95 + Vat | NEW ITEM |
| Kingston 8GB Kit (4x2GB) 1066MHz | £139.93 + Vat | NEW ITEM |

### Internal Hard Drives

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hitachi 500GB 16MB cache | £46.94 + Vat | |
| Hitachi 1TB 32MB cache | £79.93 + Vat | |
| Seagate 1.5TB 32MB cache | £116.81 + Vat | |
| Western Digital 2TB 32MB cache | £225.42 + Vat | NEW ITEM |

## iBook G4 / PowerBook G4

### Memory Upgrades

| | |
|---|---|
| Kingston 1GB SODIMM | £54.34 + Vat |
| Kingston 512MB SODIMM | £25.62 + Vat |

### Internal Hard Drives

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| | |
|---|---|
| Seagate 5400RPM 160GB | £51.99+ Vat |
| West Dig 5400RPM 250GB | £68.38 + Vat |
| West Dig 5400RPM 320GB | £76.79 + Vat |

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## MacBook & MacBook Pro

### Memory Upgrades

| | |
|---|---|
| Kingston 1GB PC5300 SODIMM | £15.86 + Vat |
| Kingston 2GB PC5300 SODIMM | £24.86 + Vat |
| Kingston 2GB PC8500 SODIMM | £28.70 + Vat |

### Internal Hard Drives

Macbook & Macbook Pro

| | |
|---|---|
| Western Digital 5400RPM 250GB | £45.95 + Vat |
| Western Digital 5400RPM 320GB | £54.03 + Vat |
| Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 250GB | £54.56 + Vat |
| Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 320GB | £59.40 + Vat |
| Western Digital 400GB 5400RPM | £72.86 + Vat |
| Western Digital 500GB 5400RPM | £76.44 + Vat |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Seagate Momentus 500GB 7200RPM | £ 108.08 + Vat |

## iMac G5 / Intel iMac

### Memory Upgrades

| | |
|---|---|
| Kingston iMac Intel 1GB | £15.86 + Vat |
| Kingston iMac Intel 2GB | £24.86 + Vat |
| Kingston iMac G5 (iSight) 2GB | £23.12 + Vat |
| Kingston iMac G5 1GB | £31.51 + Vat |

### Internal Hard Drives

| | |
|---|---|
| Hitachi 500GB 16MB cache | £46.94+ Vat |
| Hitachi 1TB 32MB cache | £79.93 + Vat |
| Seagate 1.5TB 32MB cache | £116.81 + Vat |
| Western Digital 2TB 32MB cache | £225.42 + Vat |

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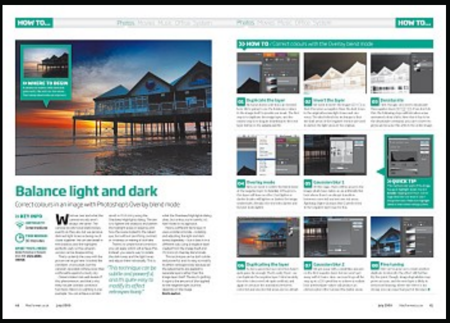
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# MACS OF THE FUTURE

MY MACCELLEROMETER IS GOING OFF THE SCALE!
WHAT NEW WONDERS LIE AHEAD?

PREPARE TO BE **AMAZED**, TRUE BELIEVER, AS THIS **FANTASTIC VOYAGE** INTO THE **WORLD OF THE TOMORROW** IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY…

**Words:** Ian Osborne **Pictures:** D'Israeli

**Ever wondered what tantalising technologies are in store for Mac users? Ian Osborne polishes his crystal ball and reveals the six you will have in your Mac next year!**

Predicting future technology trends is a risky business. Sometimes, even the most respected of pundits get it spectacularly wrong. The book editor who said, "I have travelled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year," was hardly on the ball back in 1957. Ethernet co-inventor Robert Metcalfe never lived down his 1995 gaffe when he argued the internet would suffer a catastrophic collapse in the following year, promising to eat his words if it didn't. And what happened to the flying cars, robot servants and home virtual-reality machines we were all promised?

Our predictions for tomorrow's Mac technology are a little less ambitious than these famous flops, and (we hope) more reliable. Apple is notoriously tight-lipped about future intentions, but by keeping a close eye on the emerging technologies of today, we can get a pretty good idea of what to expect from the Mac of tomorrow…

What happened to the flying cars and robot servants we were promised?

## SuperSpeed USB

Let's face it, FireWire will soon be dead. Apple has dropped it from its latest MacBooks, and it seems unlikely to last much longer in the rest of the Mac range. The future belongs to USB, and its next generation, USB 3.0.

USB 3.0, also known as SuperSpeed USB, was unveiled at the Intel Developer Forum in 2007 and announced as specification-complete last year. Its new bus offers data transfer rates up to ten times faster than USB 2.0, and it's backwards-compatible with devices using the older protocol. SuperSpeed USB is expected to achieve transfer speeds of 5Gb/s, against 2.0's maximum of 480Mb/s.

It's been estimated the first USB 3.0 products will appear in 2010, with hard drives, digital audio players and digital cameras being first to take advantage of the new SuperSpeed connectivity.

## Touchscreen Technologies

Although it's been around for decades, the touchscreen has enjoyed a renaissance over the last few years, with devices such as the iPhone and Microsoft's Surface tabletop device. And if patents taken out by Apple are anything to go by, Multi-Touch touchscreen technology could soon make it to the Mac.

As analyst Gene Munster of investment bank Piper Jaffray said last year: "Looking into 2010, we expect Apple to advance its touchscreen technology to a complete MacBook touch with touchscreen keypad features."

A tablet-format Mac, or maybe a MacBook with a swivel-screen, seems almost inevitable. But desktop machines with a touchscreen could also be on the cards. Windows PCs with this feature are already appearing, such as the Dell Studio One 19, HP TouchSmart and Asus EeeTop. With touchscreen functionality built into Windows 7, Apple could soon be playing catch-up.

Apple has denied it's taking touchscreens to the desktop Mac. According to Steve Jobs, "Multi-Touch makes a lot of sense on the iPhone, but not so much sense on an iMac. Consider it a research project." But then, he denied Apple was working on a video iPod right up until the moment it was released.

Touchscreens are going to be big. The iPhone is just the beginning…

AT&T
9:42 AM
SMS
Text
Tuesday
9
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
73°
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

Meanwhile...
COMPUTER, WHAT'S THAT SURROUNDING THE EARTH?
iCal Reminder
20:45
Re-enter atmosphere
IT'S THE CLOUD, SIR, IT'S TAKING OVER THE PLANET!

## Cloud Computing

To date, cloud computing has produced more headlines than success stories, but we expect it will come into its own over the next few years. The signs are certainly there. Apple's MobileMe service is growing in popularity, especially with those who want to synchronise contacts, calendars and more across multiple machines. Services such as *Carbonite Backup* allow you to back up your system to an online data centre, and Adobe Integrated Runtime (AIR) makes it straightforward to develop cross-platform online applications.

The future will certainly see an increasing number of desktop apps reach for the clouds. For example, Apple's *iWork '09* has already spawned an online subscription-based service. iWork.com is currently in beta, and allows you to upload, share and collaborate on (but not edit) documents created in *iWork '09*. Microsoft's forthcoming *Office 2010* (and presumably the inevitable Mac version, *Office 2011*) offers 'lightweight versions' of its component apps for use online.

Cloud computing is in its infancy, but over time more and more applications will make use of the cloud model, especially for collaborative projects and synchronisation.

Coming soon

## Snow Leopard

aka Mac OS X 10.6

The next version of OS X is almost ready for release, and could well have been announced by the time you read this. OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard doesn't add much more in the way of major new features, but instead it concentrates on delivering improved speed and performance.

Snow Leopard is optimised for multicore processors, with a collection of technologies labelled Grand Central, which will make it far easier for developers to create third-party applications that take advantage of multiple cores. OpenCL (Open Computing Language) allows developers to 'efficiently tap the vast gigaflops of computing power currently locked up in the graphics processing unit', and *Finder* gets a much-needed makeover, at last.

*Address Book*, *Mail* and *iCal* benefit from integration with Microsoft Exchange servers, which is great news for businesses using Macs alongside PCs on an Exchange server. *TextEdit* gets a text auto-correction feature too, boosting its functionality as a lightweight word processor.

## Solid-State Drives

Another technology that's been around for a while but is only now coming to fruition is the solid-state drive (SSD). A storage solution using solid-state memory instead of hard disk platters, the SSD offers significant advantages over the more common HDD. With no moving parts, it allows your computer to boot up and come out of Sleep Mode quicker. It's more robust than the hard disk, being less susceptible to bumps and knocks. It runs silently, uses less power and can operate in more extreme temperatures.

Yet the SSD also has disadvantages over traditional HDD. It's a lot more expensive. For example, a 250GB SATA II 2.5-inch SSD costs £635, but you can get an HDD with similar specs for around £40. And although solid-state drives of 1TB are emerging, hard drives of 2TB are already common.

Already available as an option on the MacBook Air, solid-state drives won't replace the Mac's hard drive as a standard feature next year. But we'd be surprised if they weren't offered as an option across the Mac range.

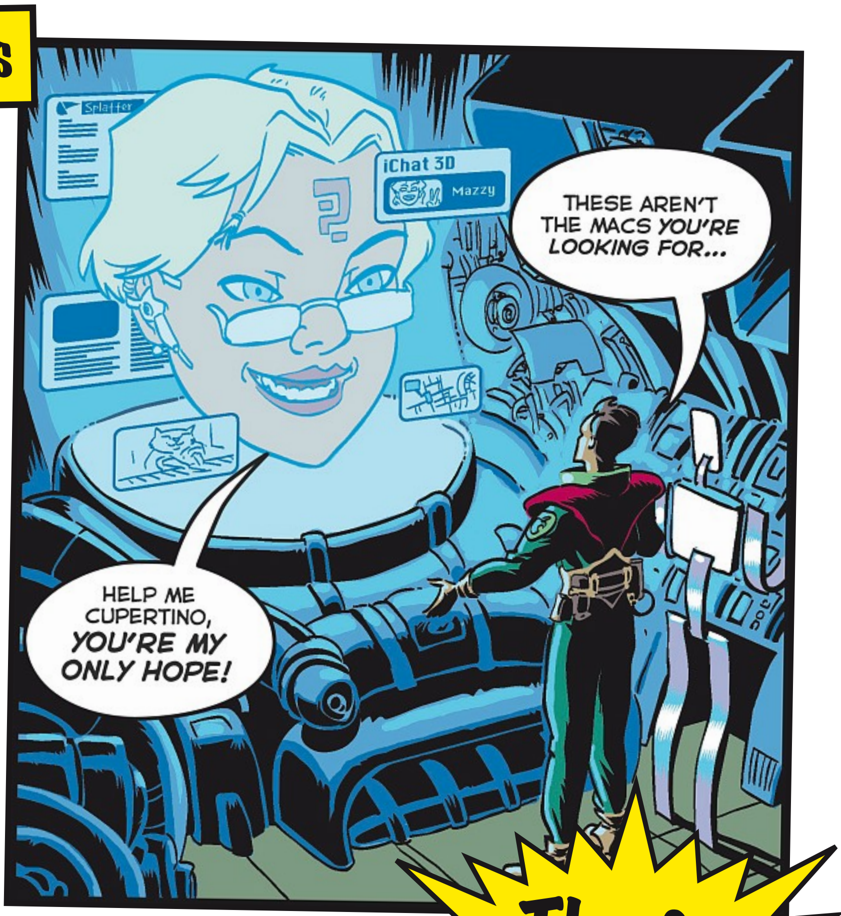
XPG
SSD
512GB 2.5" SATA II
ADATA

The solid-state drive won't replace the hard drive any time soon, but it might be offered as an option.

## New Display Technologies

Prices are falling. During the next few years, 3D displays boasting a high-enough resolution to be practical will be within easy reach of the home computer user. Philips has already introduced a 3D monitor that doesn't need special glasses to view the picture. It was initially released for use in digital signage displays, but it's coming to the home TV soon and is bound to go on to make an appearance in computer monitors. But will 3D displays find their way into the Macs of the future? And if so, it will only be as an optional niche product, rather than a standard feature.

Perhaps more interesting is the patent taken out by Apple in May 2009. Described as an 'integrated-sensing display', the device combines 'display elements and image-sensing elements'. Every pixel is accompanied by an image sensor, so it can 'not only output images (as a display) but also input images (as a camera)'. Forget an integrated iSight – here the entire screen is your webcam. Obviously, this new display would greatly improve chatting on camera. You'd talk to each others' faces instead of the tops of your heads, for a start. The patent suggests it might make an appearance on the iPhone too, giving the device a forward-facing camera for videochats.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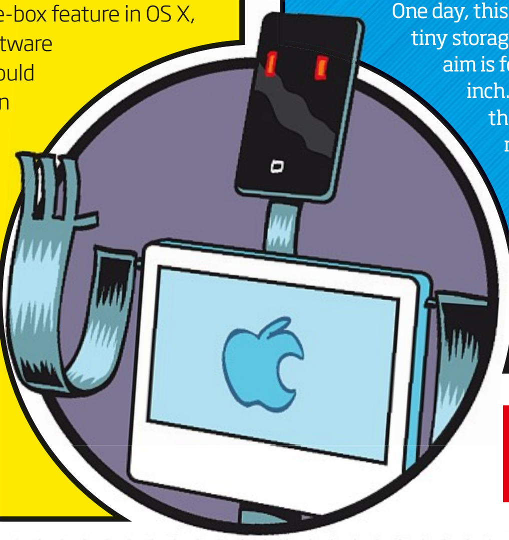
HELP ME CUPERTINO, YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!

## Biometric Security

The advantages of biometric computer security are obvious. Why use a password when you could activate your Mac with a fingerprint or retina scan? It's not vulnerable to dictionary attacks or keystroke-logging spyware, and potential miscreants won't compromise your machine by finding your written 'reminder'. A biometric pass is unique and almost impossible to forge, and would make a great anti-theft device for mobile technologies like the MacBook and iPhone.

If it were to be made available as an out-of-the-box feature in OS X, biometric security could be made available to software publishers as an anti-piracy measure too. This would offer advantages to the end user. By activating an app with your biometrics, you could install and use it on as many computers as you wish on a single-user licence, with your fingerprint or retina scan operating as a security dongle. Or the app itself could reside on online servers, accessible through any computer connected to the net, but usable only by those who've paid.

Retinal scanners are still too dear for non-commercial use, but fingerprint readers are finding their way into the home. How long will it be before they appear on the Mac?



## The far future!

Looking beyond the next few years, what will computing bring us in decades to come? Quantum computing is believed to be at least 20 years away, but when it arrives, it will revolutionise technology, making digital computers obsolete. Researchers at the University of Glasgow claim to have developed a switch the size of a single molecule. One day, this breakthrough could be used to create tiny storage drives with an incredible capacity. The aim is for half a million gigabytes in one square inch. And photon chips, which use light rather than electricity to relay information, could run on very little power offering incredible performance without heat issues. However, it's not worth pre-ordering your quantum-based Mac with photon chips and a molecular storage drive just yet. It possibly won't even arrive within our lifetimes, but we can but wish… ●

**Don't order your quantum-based Mac with photon chips just yet!**

# Q&A

## >> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

## >> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

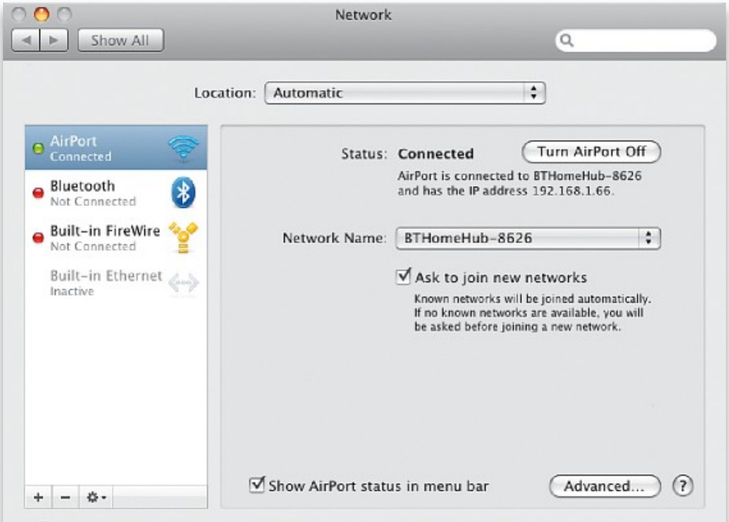
## "Why was wrong advice given about WiFi?"

**Q While reading the Q&A pages in issue 206, I was astonished at the irresponsible advice given relating to WiFi security in the first two letters on page 68.**

**First was Steven Howie who had written in about connecting his iPhone to his WiFi. He was advised to turn off all security, after all "it doesn't allow people to hack your Mac or anything". He'd better just hope that one of his wayward neighbours or someone driving by looking for open WiFi doesn't decide to start downloading child pornography or large files that puts him over his bandwidth allowance! Many Windows machines will also automatically connect to an open network, his neighbour could be using his connection without even realising it. I ask you this, would you connect an Ethernet cable to your router and run it to a socket in your garden with a sign advertising free internet to anyone who plugs in? I thought not.**

**Second was John Minard who was trying to get his old G4 connected to his WiFi network via something more secure like WPA or WPA2. He was advised that WEP is perfectly safe for a home network. This advice was given despite the easy availability of software that can crack a WEP password in less than 60 seconds.**

**Can I recommend before giving such advice that you do a little more in the way of research?**



Network

Show All

Location: Automatic

AirPort Connected

Bluetooth Not Connected

Built-in FireWire Not Connected

Built-in Ethernet Inactive

Status: Connected — Turn AirPort Off

AirPort is connected to BTHomeHub-8626 and has the IP address 192.168.1.66.

Network Name: BTHomeHub-8626

☑ Ask to join new networks

Known networks will be joined automatically. If no known networks are available, you will be asked before joining a new network.

☑ Show AirPort status in menu bar — Advanced... — ?

Click the lock to prevent further changes. — Assist me... — Revert — Apply

**WEP is not the most secure solution but it's certainly good enough for some environments.**

**Running an open network is sheer lunacy, and running a WEP network is unsafe at best and almost pointless unless trying to stop accidental connections.**

**Mike Kirk**

**A** I think you're overreacting. Steven Howie had an iPhone that couldn't connect to his WiFi network *at all*. While this was obviously a highly secure arrangement, it wasn't practical. As one – of three – possible workarounds, I suggested running an open network. I was clear that doing so would allow people to steal his bandwidth but added that "as a temporary measure, while you wait for Apple to fix the [firmware] problem, this might be the least bad option".

And as for the WPA vs WEP debate, you seem to be misconstruing my advice. I didn't say that WEP was "perfectly safe"; I said it wasn't "necessarily inadequate". I know about WEP password-cracking software but the unglamorous truth is that most of the time, no one can be bothered to hack your WiFi connection. Talking about people driving by looking for open networks so they can download child pornography is just emotive and alarmist. There are neighbourhoods where I would want strong network security (university campuses, for example). But network security is like any other kind of house security. Is it ever okay to leave the little bathroom window open at night? It depends on where you live. WPA and WPA2 are better than WEP. I said this in my original reply and also explained how to make it work on John Minard's network. But there are situations where WEP is enough.

**A Mac mini isn't the cheapest home computer you can buy but it's pretty competitive, considering the specification.**

## "How do I install digital mapping apps on a Mac?"

**Q I have several PPC G4 Macs and want to install digital mapping software. The problem is that this requires Windows XP or above. Microsoft *Virtual PC 6.1* seems to be the only option, but this is painfully slow and expensive. For around £200 I can buy an EEE PC 901 with XP installed. Help save me from the dark side that is the PC!**

**Tony Furniss**

A Well, the cheapest EEE PC 901 I can find is £237, which is still an awful lot less than a Mac mini at £499. And although you can just about shoehorn Leopard onto a G4 Mac, *Boot Camp* won't work because it needs Intel hardware. There are some mapping programs available for OS X such as *National Geographic TOPO* and *MacGPS Pro* but if you need to run a particular Windows-only application, then emulating on a G4 isn't going to be very satisfactory. Even a native OS X program would be fairly painful on a G4 because mapping is graphically quite intensive. Come to that, the EEE isn't the ideal platform for this application either, with limited processing power and a small screen.

Put the G4 on eBay and get a mini with Leopard and XP and dual boot.

## "How can I fix the iTunes bugs on my PowerPC Mac?"

**Q Ever since updating to *iTunes 8.1.1*, I have all kinds of weirdness! Duplicated podcast feeds appear from nowhere. The 'i' next to podcasts, if clicked on, results in a window that runs from top to bottom of the screen, which cannot be closed except by quitting the app. I can't burn discs without errors. It worked perfectly when I tried it on my new MacBook. What on earth is going on? Has Apple given up bothering whether things work on PPCs? I've upgraded to Leopard, I've done all the usual stuff like trashing preference files and fixing permissions and nothing seems to work.**

**Kate Thomas**

A Almost without exception, every version of *iTunes* ever released has broken something on somebody's Mac. This happens to some extent with all software but *iTunes* seems to be especially prone – perhaps it's just a statistical inevitability since so many computers run *iTunes*.

This is yet another good reason to make sure you back up your stuff. Even if you don't think you have any documents worth saving, a recent backup gives you the option of rolling back an application update if it causes problems. Under Leopard, you now have *Time Machine* to make this effortless of course, but it sounds as if you have upgraded since installing *iTunes 8.1.1* so that isn't going to help. You *could* scour the net to see if you can find a download for *8.1.0* (although I've just spent 15 minutes searching with no success) but actually I think that you might be better off waiting for *8.1.2*. After all, let's not forget that the main reason for *8.1.1* in the first place was to fix bugs left over from *8.1.0*.

## Playing with the Dark Side

### Bill Gallop

For those wanting to run Windows-only software on a Mac, you have three options to choose from. Now that all Macs have Intel processors they are, to all intents and purposes, PCs, as the hardware is basically the same. All you need is a copy of Windows, the drivers for your Mac's hardware and a way of setting up your Mac so that you can choose whether you want to use it with OS X or Windows. Traditionally, you can either use a virtual machine or reboot your Mac into Windows using Apple's *Boot Camp*, which is built into Leopard. But there is now a third option – *CrossOver* from CodeWeavers (see review on p90) does away with Windows and allows you to run Windows programs directly under OS X. It's clever, but support is limited to specific apps.

In my opinion, the best way to get Windows on a Mac is still through a virtual machine. This means using an app that makes a copy of Windows think that it is running on a separate PC. There are three main virtual machines available for Mac OS X and they are *Parallels Desktop/Server*, VMware *Fusion* and *VirtualBox* from Sun.

*"Whether you use a virtual machine or Boot Camp to run Windows, ensure that you run up-to-date internet security"*

Virtual machines are great for the following reasons: you don't have to stop what you are doing on the Mac if you want to use a Windows program; you can cut and paste between a Mac's and PC's apps; you may be able to access your Mac files and folders from within Windows; and finally, it's easy to take a snapshot of the virtual machine, so that if a Windows virus (or other problem) hits, you can simply revert to a working version of Windows.

The disadvantage of virtual machines is that since Windows has to go through another program before it can talk to your Mac's hardware there are some programs that don't perform too well. However, as support for 3D graphics in virtual machines is continually improving this is getting better, but there can still be problems. For example, the recent Mac OS X 10.5.7 update broke support for 3D graphics in VMware *Fusion*.

Whether you use a virtual machine or *Boot Camp* to run Windows on your Mac, you must ensure that you are running up-to-date internet security software, as well as applying all of Microsoft's critical updates. A good way to make sure that both your Mac and Windows are protected are with Intego's *Virus Barrier Dual Protection Antispam Edition*, which includes antivirus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, anti-phishing and firewall software for both Mac and Windows.

**Bill Gallop is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month Bill will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.**

**>>QUICK TIP**

If you are using *Pages* and can't remember how to spell a word, you can hit F5 part-way through a word to see a list of all words that begin with those letters. It's a bit like predictive text on your mobile phone.

## "Why can't I transfer tunes to my iPhone?"

**Q I have an iPhone and my main computer is a PC. However, I am unable to add songs from my MacBook Pro to my iPhone. I've taken the phone into the Apple Store and dealt with the Genius Bar. They said my problem was that I didn't have my *iTunes* on both computers set to manually manage music. I did this, erasing all my songs off of my iPhone and starting over. I added one song from my PC to my iPhone and no problem. Yet as soon as I move my iPhone over to my Mac laptop, *iTunes* sees the phone but I cannot add songs to it. I am able to do that with iPods, why not my iPhone?**

**Jay Davis**

**A** Which version of *iTunes* do you have on the Mac? The option to drag and drop individual tunes (as opposite to syncing a whole playlist) on an iPhone was only introduced with *iTunes 7.6*.

There's a workaround you could try: create a playlist just for your iPhone on the Mac and treat that as if it is the iPhone itself. You can do all your dragging and dropping and title editing there, just remember to sync the playlist at the end. You can even do this as a smart playlist.

File
Edit
View
Virtual Machine
Applications
Window
Help
Boot Camp partition
Start Up
Take Snapshot
Rollback
Settings
Unity
Full Screen
Recycle Bin
World markets gripp...
Bank of America, Citi...
Swine flu spreads to ...
Thrill is gone – GM'...
1-4
22:28
To return to your computer, press Control-⌘

Windows using virtualisation is slower than dual booting, but much more convenient.

## "Why can't I print if running Fusion and Windows?"

**Q I have recently switched from a PC to a 24-inch iMac and I have a problem printing from within Windows through *VMware Fusion 2*. I want to continue using *Paint Shop Pro*, an application not available for Macs yet. Windows applications are working fine except I cannot print from any of them to my HP Photosmart C4400, which I bought with my iMac. The print drivers have been loaded in Windows and nothing looks untoward. The printer is set to 'share' and all that happens is that documents go as far as the print queue and sit there but will not start up the printer. Printing using the iMac is fine.**

**Sean Dillon-White**

**A** It makes a difference which version of Windows you are running. XP and Vista are definitely

## >>MACFIXIT TIPS / Change a standard account to an administrator account

Some users, after upgrading to Mac OS X 10.5.6, may find their administrator account has been changed to a standard account. This can cause issues if you need to install software or perform a task that needs a higher level of permission. Also, people who buy a used Mac may need to set up a user account but do not have the administrator password.

Apple Support Discussions user danweb writes: "My mother owns a MacBook and her account is not the admin account. It's causing problems since a lot of things ask for an admin account and password. We have tried the fixes using the startup disk, however there are two problems.

1. Startup from login just isn't working. The computer goes straight to the normal Desktop no matter how many attempts or variations of holding the C key I try out.

2. Using the fixes that advise to click the **Mac OS X Installer** and then go to **Utilities** don't work. Before even getting to any **Utilities** options, an admin password window pops up."

### Possible fixes

You could start by resetting your administrator password. Do this by following these steps:

1. Place your Mac OS X 10.5 install DVD into your optical drive and start up your Mac.

2. From the **Utilities** menu, choose **Reset Password**. (Note: do not choose the *Firmware Password Utility*.)

3. Follow instructions to reset your root password. Select the the drive that the OS is located on; the user named **System Administrator** (root) from the menu, and enter and confirm your new password. Save.

4. Restart your Mac.

5. When the login window appears, select **Other…** to log in as the root user. Use the new password you have just created. (Note: if you are automatically logged in at startup, from the  menu > Log out (⌘+⇧+Q) to get to the login window.)

6. Once logged in as the root user, from System Preferences > Accounts, highlight the user that you would like to have administrator access.

7. Check the box to **Allow user to administer this computer**.

8. Disable the root user using *Directory Utility* (Applications > Utilities). Choose Edit > Disable Root User. (Note: you may have to unlock *Directory Utility* first by entering your administrator password after clicking on the lock icon.)

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
**Tips supplied by MacFixit.com**

## >> MACFIXIT TIPS / Odd fonts displaying? Use Font Book

When applications display content in strange fonts that have not been assigned to them, you'll find that this is caused by font corruption, duplication, or other problems with the individual fonts installed on the system.

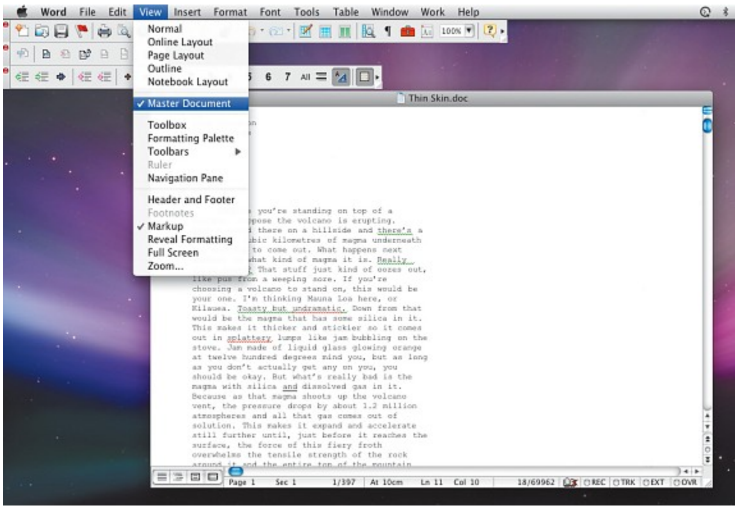
Apple Discussion poster herbmstrs writes: "I started having parts of web pages and emails coming up in a runic font I have on my computer. I deleted it because it started this, but it hasn't gone away. I figured out how to view my emails in the last alternative version, but how can I change my *Safari* pages so that I am able to see them in English? It's hard to read in runic and I am not able to convert it in my head. I'm not sure what happened or how to fix and prevent this happening in the future. I've tried everything I can think of but with no luck. Plus, not all pages or emails come up in that font – on some pages just part of it is mixed in with English titles."

When errors such as this occur, you might want to think about removing the application's preference files and other resource files the application may use for running. In addition to (or instead of) this, try running *Font Book*'s font verification routine on all your fonts, and remove any fonts that are showing problems. Even if there are errors in fonts other than the ones you are using, you can have problems with fonts displaying improperly in certain applications. We've mentioned this in previous articles about gibberish or incoherent text displaying in applications, but it is also relevant when the wrong font is displayed but the text appears properly.

The system has font locations in the global library (for all users), the system library (core system fonts, which should not be changed), in addition to those in an individual's user library. As such, some users on the system can have font problems while others do not. This all depends on what they've installed in their libraries. Running font verification in each affected account will pinpoint font problems that might be involved.

**Solution: Font Verification**
Open *Font Book* (in the **Utilities** folder) and highlight the **All Fonts** collection. Then in the **Font** column, select a font and press ⌘+A to select all fonts. Then choose **Validate Fonts…** from the **File** menu and a window should open that checks all the selected fonts. If any have errors, check them, and then click on the **Remove Checked** button. After this has been done, relaunching the affected program or restarting the computer should clear the problem.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
**Tips supplied by MacFixit.com**



you're standing on top of a
pose the volcano is erupting.
there on a hillside and there's a
bic kilometres of magma underneath
to come out. What happens next
what kind of magma it is. Really
That stuff just kind of oozes out,
like pus from a weeping sore. If you're
choosing a volcano to stand on, this would be
your one. I'm thinking Mauna Loa here, or
Kilauea. Toasty but undramatic. Down from that
would be the magma that has some silica in it.
This makes it thicker and stickier so it comes
out in splattery lumps like jam bubbling on the
stove. Jam made of liquid glass glowing orange
at twelve hundred degrees mind you, but as long
as you don't actually get any on you, you
should be okay. But what's really bad is the
magma with silica and dissolved gas in it.
Because as that magma shoots up the volcano
vent, the pressure drops by about 1.2 million
atmospheres and all that gas comes out of
solution. This makes it expand and accelerate
still further until, just before it reaches the
surface, the force of this fiery froth
overwhelms the tensile strength of the rock
around it and the entire top of the mountain

**The Master Document feature can avoid some problems associated with large documents.**

more cooperative than Windows 98 or Millennium. Check that you have *Bonjour* installed in the Windows virtual machine as well. If your printer is currently connected through the network, try connecting directly through USB. You can then use the USB icons in the bottom-right of the *Fusion* window to connect the printer.

Even without the additional complication of virtualisation, printing from Windows can often be problematic. It may be worth checking that the driver you have will allow you to print on a machine running the same version of Windows natively. And as a last resort, have you tried "printing" to a PDF file in Windows and then printing the PDF from OS X?

## "How can I make Word behave on my Mac?"

**Q I have MS *Word 2004* on my home iMac (all PCs at the office use *Word 2003*). It's been working fine except when I open complex collaborative documents with tracked changes that have many comments. Each of us is responsible for separate sections of the document but work on separate versions of the whole document that can be 200 pages. When viewing final showing markup, *Word* running under *Rosetta* crawls to a snail's pace. I got fed up and decided to invest in MS *Word 2008*. However, it freezes after working for 5-10 minutes on the document and will not pick up again. It is using the processor at 100%. I have to force quit. Googling the problem suggests it could be the normal template files from *Word 2004* causing *Word* to be upset. So I searched the hard disk and removed every copy found. It worked for a weekend but this weekend I open the next document and the same problem reappears.**
**Stefan Fabiansson**

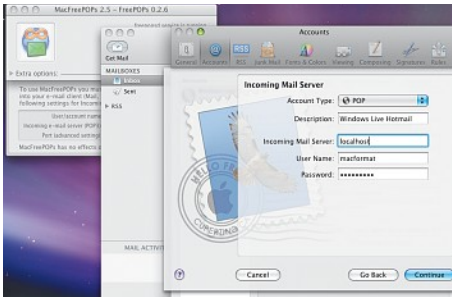
**A** I think the problem is that you are trying to keep both *Word 2004* and *2008* installed on the same Mac and they are fighting each other. I appreciate that you are hanging onto *Word 2004* as an emergency life raft solution but it's very likely that the two versions are corrupting each other's template files. Instead of reinstalling *Word 2008* all the time, just uninstall *Word 2004* and be done with it. If this doesn't help, I would try reducing the complexity of the documents themselves.

*Word* is never at its best with very large files. Try breaking it into much smaller chunks of ten pages or so. You can use the Master Document feature if you want to keep them all together and allow you to export the full document when you have finished working on it.

## >> QUICK TIP

The *Calculator* app built into OS X can do a lot more for you than just simple sums. As well as its basic display, it has scientific and programmer modes and unit conversion available from the menu. You can also save or print all your calculations so far, like using an adding machine till roll.

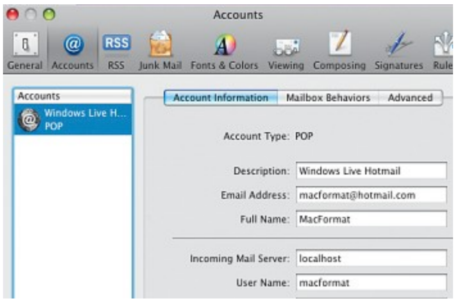
## HOW TO / Setting up OS X Mail to get Windows Live Mail with MacFreePOPs



Incoming Mail Server
Account Type: POP
Description: Windows Live Hotmail
Incoming Mail Server: localhost
User Name: macformat
Password: ••••••••••

### 01 Set up Windows Live

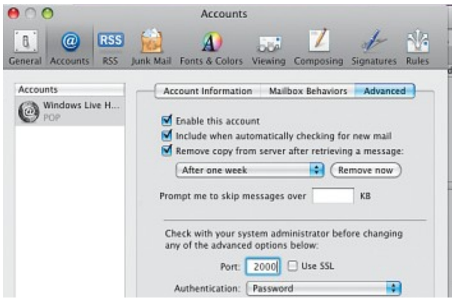
With *Mail* you can receive Windows Live email messages if you have the premium version, but you won't be able to send them. To set this up, select Mail Preferences > Accounts. Click + and set the account type to POP and the description to Windows Live Hotmail.



Account Type: POP
Description: Windows Live Hotmail
Email Address: macformat@hotmail.com
Full Name: MacFormat
Incoming Mail Server: localhost
User Name: macformat

### 02 Enter your details

Enter your Windows Live address and password into the relevant fields, and set the Incoming Mail Server option to localhost. You might find that an error message presents itself after you have completed this step, but feel free to just ignore it.



☑ Enable this account
☑ Include when automatically checking for new mail
☑ Remove copy from server after retrieving a message:
After one week
Prompt me to skip messages over KB
Check with your system administrator before changing any of the advanced options below:
Port: 2000 ☐ Use SSL
Authentication: Password

### 03 Finishing up

Finally to complete the set up, head over to the **Advanced** tab for this new account. You can now set **Port** to **2000** and remember to click **Save**. You'll find that you should now be able to conveniently receive your *Windows Live* messages in *Mail*. ●

## QUICK TIP

You can set your screensaver as an RSS reader (choose RSS Visualiser in **Desktop & Screen Saver** preferences). Whenever your screensaver cuts in, you'll get a stream of headlines from your favourite site.

## "How do I protect my keychain from other users?"

**Q I am using a PowerBook G4 running OS X 10.4.11, I use *Keychain Access* for all my passwords that are required for this ever-complex digital world. My main concern is that I don't know how to back up these secure notes and I am worried that a computer failure could lose this data. I am also concerned that even though my access is password protected, if I have a problem and an engineer needs that password to, say, re-install a program they would need that password, which would allow them access to my keychain. Is there a way to give the keychain a unique password?**
**Alan Gates**

**A** You don't need to have just one keychain. A keychain is just a database of passwords and the default one is used to hold your login password for OS X itself, as well as all those remote disk volumes, FTP services and so on. It usually makes sense to have this keychain automatically unlock when you log in otherwise you'll be prompted to unlock the keychain all the time, which is nearly as annoying as having to remember all your passwords in the first place. But for the other little secrets that you don't need to access as often, it's a better idea to put them in a different keychain and leave that one so that it is set to *not* unlock automatically. Each keychain can have its own password so there is no need for any engineer to have access to your personal info.

Being databases, keychains are just files and they are stored in ~/Library/Keychains/ with the extension .keychain (unsurprisingly). Whatever backup solution you have in place to protect the rest of your disk will also cover the keychains, but they are small enough that you can easily make separate copies of them on a USB memory stick if you wanted to. Even if the memory stick falls into the wrong hands the information will still be completely safe against all but a major government cryptanalysis team. Or you can use your MobileMe account, if you have one to automatically back up your keychain to the net. Do this from the MobileMe preference pane in *System Preferences*.

## MACFIXIT TIPS / Share your iTunes with other users

If you have multiple user accounts set up on your Mac but would like access to a single *iTunes* music collection, this will guide you through the process of setting that up. By default, each user has an individual *iTunes* music collection that is not accessible to other users on the same Mac.

### To share your iTunes music with others:

1. Be sure *iTunes* is not open.

2. Locate your **iTunes Music** folder. (Note: check your username > Music > iTunes or username > Documents > iTunes folders.)

3. Move your **iTunes Music** folder to a publicly accessible location on your Mac's hard drive. You can move it to other locations including:

- The **Public** folder in your home directory (username > Public) or;
- A folder outside your home directory (Macintosh HD > Users > Shared).

Do not move the entire *iTunes* folder. Only move the **iTunes Music** folder. The other folders and files in the *iTunes* folder are preference settings for each user's **iTunes Library**.

4. Open *iTunes* and select iTunes > Preferences (⌘+,)

5. Click the tab for **Advanced** settings and click **Change**.

6. In the **Change Music Folder Location** section, navigate to the moved **iTunes Music** folder and click **Choose**.

Note: you will need to repeat the steps 4 through to 6 for each user accessing the **iTunes Music** folder.

**Tips supplied by MacFixit.com**
MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

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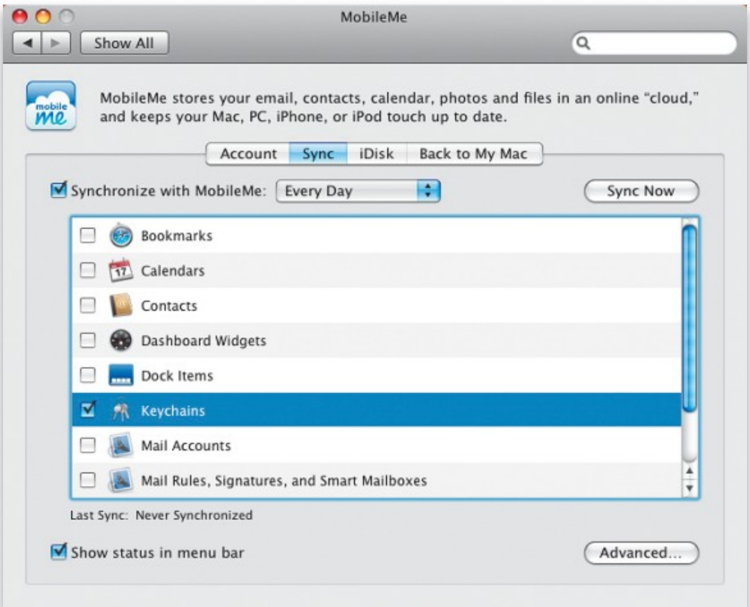


MobileMe stores your email, contacts, calendar, photos and files in an online "cloud," and keeps your Mac, PC, iPhone, or iPod touch up to date.

☑ Synchronize with MobileMe: Every Day

- ☐ Bookmarks
- ☐ Calendars
- ☐ Contacts
- ☐ Dashboard Widgets
- ☐ Dock Items
- ☑ Keychains
- ☐ Mail Accounts
- ☐ Mail Rules, Signatures, and Smart Mailboxes

Last Sync: Never Synchronized

☑ Show status in menu bar

**MobileMe is a handy way to back up your keychain files to the net for safe keeping.**

## "Can I send and receive Hotmail messages in Mail?"

**Q** **Is it possible to use *Mail* as a way to access my Hotmail account? I went into the Add Account wizard, but got a little bit stumped when it asked me about the incoming mail server etc.**
**Michael Esler**

**A** Hotmail (or Windows Live Mail as it now prefers to be addressed) doesn't want you to access it remotely. This is because it's a service predicated on generating page views of the site. However, if you subscribe to the premium version of Live Mail you will be able to access your account from *Mail* but otherwise Microsoft does its best to block you.

The I-wouldn't-start-from-here solution is to use Gmail (**gmail.com**), which is generally more powerful and flexible than Live Mail and certainly supports direct access from OS X *Mail*. But if migrating to Gmail is just not practical, you can also use *MacFreePOPs* (**www.e-link.it/macfreepops**). However, be warned, it won't let you send from your Live Mail account, only receive. But you can use Gmail or the email provided by your ISP for sending anyway. Once you have the freepopsd service running, you'll be able to see the exact steps for configuring *MacFreePOPs* in the box that presents itself.

## "How do I import footage to a Mac from a Handycam?"

**Q** **I cannot achieve any communication between my video camera (Sony Handycam DCR) and my PowerBook G4 or 24-inch iMac – both running 10.4.11. The software that came with the camera is not Mac-compatible and Sony's suggestions to download Mac-compatible software failed. Buying *iLife '08* didn't help at all either!**
**Paul**

**A** If your camcorder isn't recognised by *iLife*, you have to find some way of downloading the video files by hand. Check to see if *Finder* recognises the Handycam as an external drive when it is connected by the USB cable. This would allow you to copy the MPEG-2 files across. You then need to convert them into a format that *iMovie '08* recognises (H.264, DV or AIC). You can use MPEG *Streamclip* for this, which is free from **www.apple.com/downloads** but you'll also need the MPEG-2 playback component for *QuickTime* – that's going to cost you £15 from the Apple Store.

If you can't get the Handycam to appear as an external disk, you may be able to access the footage via a Windows PC. Or perhaps a standalone DVD recorder would allow you to burn a DVD-R and rip it back into the Mac. ●

# On the forum

## Help and advice from readers

**Q** I'm having trouble getting consistent data between two Macs. Both are set to sync iDisk to MobileMe but when I get them together files are missing from the iMac version that are shown on the MacBook Pro. Any ideas?
**stuartgoble Joined: 12 Jul 2007 Posts: 95 Location: Taunton, UK**

**A** Start by resetting the sync data in MobileMe to whichever copy contains the data. That should cure it.
**MacToonFan Joined: 19 Mar 2007 Posts: 27 Location: Newcastle upon Tyne**

**Q** Occasionally my iPhone screen freezes. To overcome this I have to lock the phone and restart. However, the screen freezes again shortly afterwards. There does not seem to be any particular application or function that starts the freeze. Does anyone have a similar problem?
**oldmoondog Joined: 11 Feb 2008 Posts: 62**

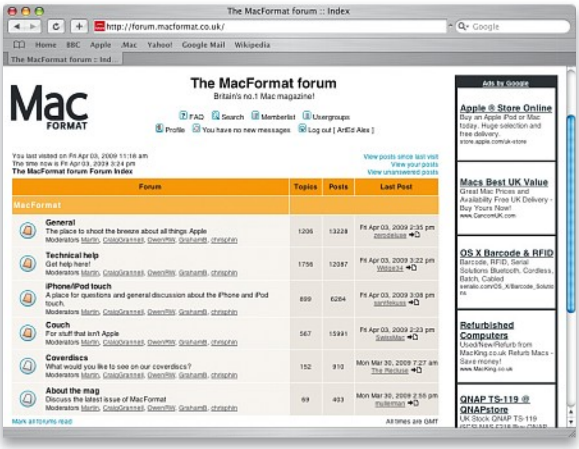
**A** Sounds like you need to do a full restore from *iTunes*. Set up as a new iPhone (not from backup) as you may re-install the problem. The sync should place your contacts etc back onto the iPhone. If your email is IMAP, this will go back too.
**James Joined: 04 May 2005 Posts: 2675 Location: North Hertfordshire**

**Q** I have items (folders – zero bytes, unlocked and unshared) in the Trash that I want to nuke. When I go to empty it I get the following: **The operation cannot be completed because you do not have sufficient privileges for some of the items.** If I click continue, nothing happens.
**discoian Joined: 02 Mar 2008 Posts: 15**

**A** 1. Launch *Terminal*, in Applications > Utilities folder.
2. At the prompt, type the following command:

```
sudo rm -rf ~/.Trash/*
```

(Note the single space after sudo, rm, and -rf.)
3. Press ↩ and type your Admin password, press ↩.
The files in the Trash are now deleted.
**Costas Joined: 03 Jun 2007 Posts: 1115 Location: London**



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**http://forum.macformat.co.uk**

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It's back for 2009 with great cash prizes and a range of inspiring new categories

Kah Kit Yoong

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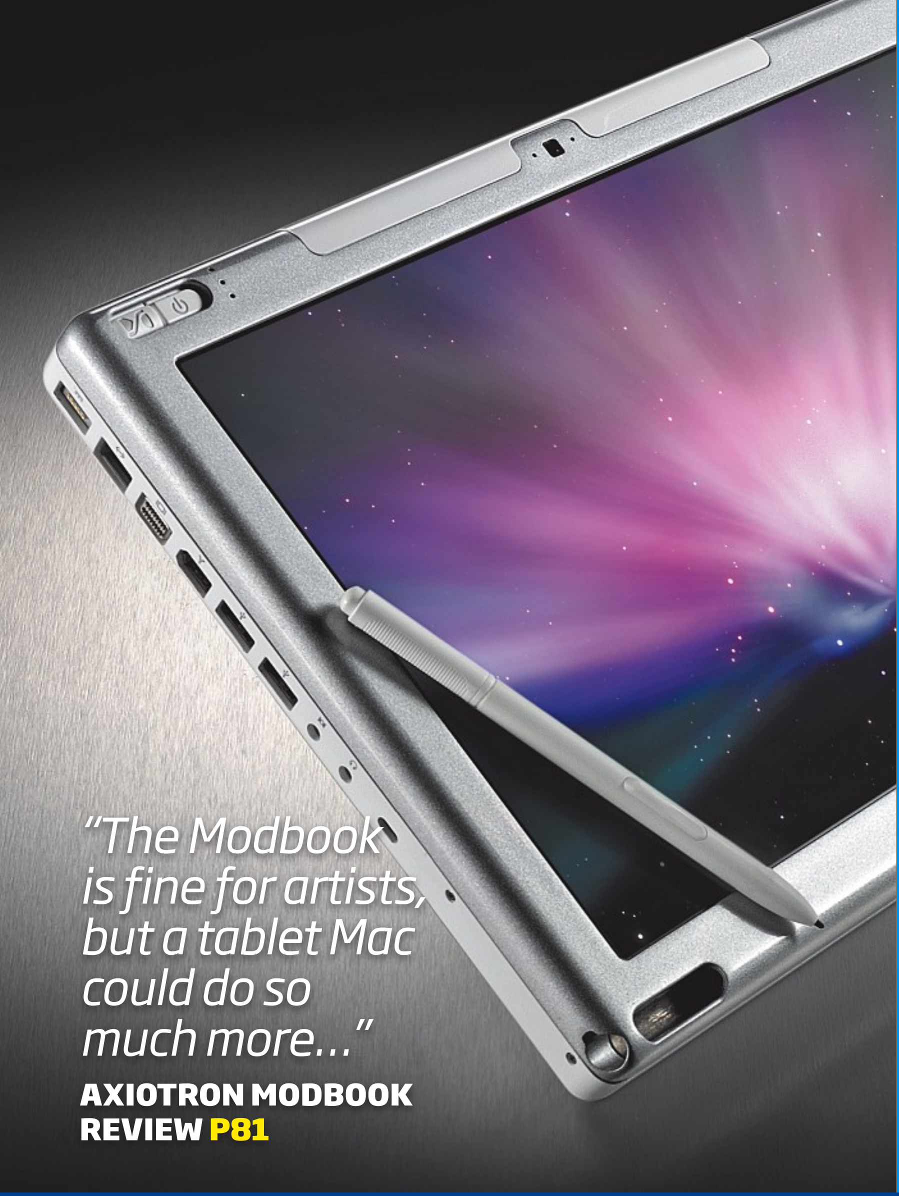
# THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PHOTO COMPETITION

**www.poty2009.com**

In association with

Telegraph.co.uk skyARTS The Royal Photographic Society



*"The Modbook is fine for artists, but a tablet Mac could do so much more…"*

**AXIOTRON MODBOOK REVIEW P81**

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# Reviews

● HARDWARE ● SOFTWARE ● iPHONE APPS ● SHAREWARE ● GAMES

Ian Osborne
**Reviews Editor**

Could there be a market for a tablet-format Mac? A vocal portion of the Mac-using public seems to want one. Rumour-fuelled expectations of an OS X touchscreen device precede every major Apple event, only to crumble to dust when nothing is announced. So, if there's such a clamour for a tablet Mac, the Axiotron Modbook should take the world by storm, right? Maybe not. As we saw when we reviewed it over on page 81, the Modbook is a very specialist device, more of a graphics tablet on a Mac rather than a tablet-format Mac. It's incredibly cool and great fun to use, but the tablet computer is more than a physical form factor. Until we get a dedicated Tablet Edition of OS X, we won't have a true tablet Mac.

In the software section, we put two of the Mac's leading language-learning software packages against each other. Over on page 91, *Berlitz Language Course* dukes it out with *Byki Deluxe Language Tutor*. They both land some heavy blows, but even though the fight ends with a clear winner, they each have something good to offer.

## >> OUR LOGOS

A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.

Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

**RATINGS EXPLAINED:** ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

### >>VIDEO-ENCODING HARDWARE

# Elgato Video Capture

**£90** Get your old VHS tapes onto YouTube for the world to laugh at

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** Elgato
www.elgato.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603539

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Capture format:** NTSC, SECAM, PAL, and PAL/60, 640x480 (4:3) or 640x360 (16:9), H.264 at 1.4Mb/sec

### PROS & CONS

- + Easy to use
- + Doesn't crop video
- − Requires Intel Core Duo
- − No bundled software

### VERDICT

★★★★½

**"Reliable importing of analogue sources."**

VHS may seem like a bad dream, but many of us have stacks of old cassettes in a cupboard somewhere that deserve to be digitised onto the Mac for sharing.

Elgato's Video Capture does just that. It's a little hardware dongle with connections for Composite and S-Video as well as audio, and it even comes with AV cables and a SCART adaptor. Just plug it into your Mac's USB port, and use the assistant to step you through the process of checking the connections from your VCR then importing. It happens in real time, so it's not a quick process, but if you tell the software how long the recording is, you're given the option – which you can later override – of when to stop the process; you could set it going before bed.

The quality is dependent on the source; it's encoded by your Mac – one reason it requires an Intel Core Duo processor – into H.264.

The software lets you trim the clip (but not split one recording into multiple clips; you'd need *iMovie* for that) and then watch it, add it to *iTunes* ready for syncing to iPods or Apple TV, or upload it to YouTube.

video capture
elgato

**Connect your VCR using Composite or S-Video – it even includes the cables and a SCART adaptor.**

We'd like to see some software to help clean up analogue recordings – a video equivalent to apps like *CD Spin Doctor* – but it's not a deal-breaker.

If you have a G4 or G5 Mac, you'd need the pricier EyeTV 250 Plus that handles the video encoding for you – and comes with *Toast Basic* to let you burn to DVD. Considering the price tag, the Video Capture is a cracking way to import from VHS and other analogue sources.

**Christopher Phin**

### >>EARBUDS

# Custom Tuned Earphones

**£59** Custom earbuds to match your music, but is the concept dubious or genius?

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** Radiopaq
www.radiopaq.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603554

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Impedance:** 16 ohms **Frequency response:** 18Hz at 20 KHz **Driver Type:** 10mm **Sensitivity:** 120dB

### PROS & CONS

- + Good value for money
- + Lightweight and stylish
- + Versatile – not limited to one genre
- − Picking which to go for is tricky

### VERDICT

★★★½☆

**"Great buds that should be matched to personal taste."**

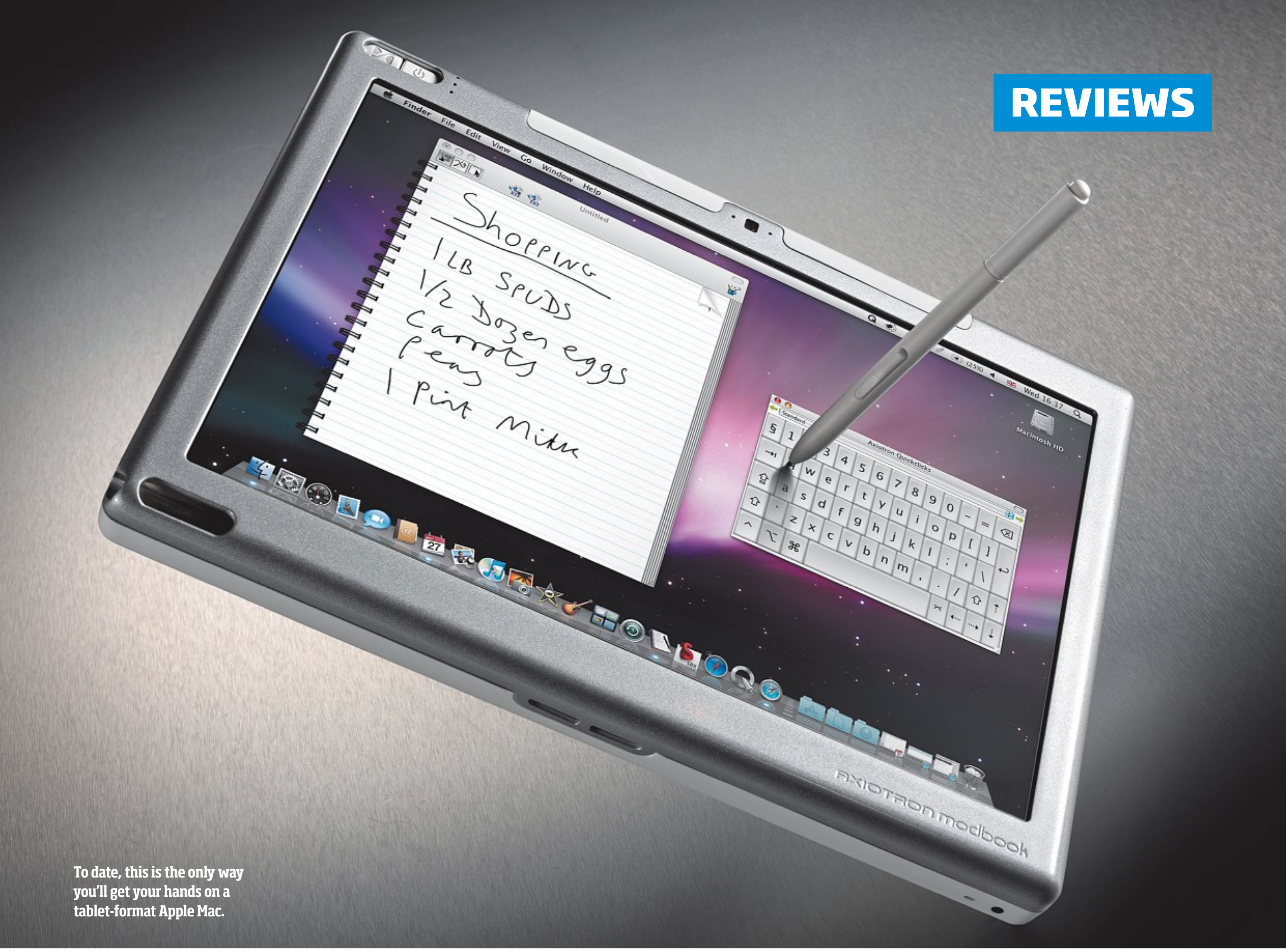
Radiopaq's Custom Tuned Earphones range offers a unique set of earbuds for different musical genres, each optimised to get the most from the style in question. There are four to choose from. The Rock earbuds offer solid bass and a low-distortion ratio. The Pop-tuned set gives strong vocals and mid-range, with Jazz emphasising detail, range and balance, and Classical offering improved audio separation and a strong mid-to-high end. Radiopaq is keen to point out the buds aren't limited to their own genre. This makes sense, but it is confusing.

POP
POP
CLAS
CLAS
ROCK
ROCK
JAZZ
JAZZ

**Radiopaq earbuds are designed to match your favourite style of music, but really it's down to personal taste.**

But does this custom-tuning work, or is it a gimmick? The differences are subtle but they do exist, though which set sounds best seems more down to personal taste rather than the style of music being played. We especially liked the Jazz earbuds as the degree of instrumental detail worked well for all genres, giving jazz and classical added clarity, while capturing the intensity and energy of a rock or pop performance. They offered a decent bottom range too, but those who like lots of bass might prefer the Rock buds. There was little difference between Classical and Pop buds, though the former is slightly better for complex arrangements and the latter offers improvement for the vocals. All sets are comfortable with good isolation. Not bad for £59.

**Ian Osborne**



To date, this is the only way you'll get your hands on a tablet-format Apple Mac.

>> TABLET-FORMAT MAC

# Axiotron Modbook

**£1,896** A gap in the Mac range is filled by a third-party manufacturer, but it's strictly for connoisseurs

Sections of the Mac-buying public have demanded a tablet-format Mac for years, but Apple has never delivered. Back at Macworld 2007, Axiotron announced the Modbook, a tablet computer built from a MacBook. And this summer, they released a new, improved version and announced an exclusive deal with Computer Warehouse giving the device its first official UK release. But is it the tablet Mac we've been waiting for, or does it vindicate Apple's decision not to release an official one?

## Modified Macbook

The Modbook we review here is based on a standard 2GHz MacBook, though a version built from a MacBook Pro is on the way later this year. The 2009 model enjoys several improvements over previous Modbooks. It's lighter, making it more comfortable in the hand when drawing, and offers an improved battery life. Bluetooth connectivity has been improved and the GPS has been given an overhaul.

Modbook is aimed at computer artists, and comes with *Autodesk SketchBook Express 2009*, an art package 'designed for pen-based interaction.' It works nicely with *Photoshop* and *CorelDraw* too. When drawing quickly there's a slight lag, but nothing too disastrous. Likewise, the pen can be a little erratic near the edges of the screen, but it's easy enough to work around this.

> *"The 2009 model enjoys several improvements… it's lighter and offers an improved battery life"*

## Great second Mac

As an all-round computer it's less capable. Handwriting recognition is a slight chore, and typing using the virtual keyboard is a complete pain. Modbook might supplement your main Mac well, but it won't replace it.

The Modbook is fine for artists, but a tablet Mac could do so much more. Until we get an official Apple device, with an iPhone-like multi-touch screen and a dedicated Tablet Edition of OSX, the true tablet Mac will remain outside our reach.

**Ian Osborne**

## CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** Axiotron
www.axiotron.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603578

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo 2.0GHz
**RAM:** 2GB **Hard disk:** 120GB
**Display:** Axiotron AnyView LCD

## PROS & CONS

- + The only tablet Mac
- + Great for computer artists
- – Limited functionality
- – Expensive

## VERDICT

★★★☆☆

**"Extremely cool, but somewhat limited."**

**»MULTIFUNCTION DEVICE**

# HP Officejet Pro 8500

**£299** An excellent all-rounder, but quality comes at a price...

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** HP
www.hp.com/uk
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603509

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Printing tech:** Inkjet, **Scan res:** 4,800dpi, **Supported memory card formats:** CF, Memory Stick, SD

### PROS & CONS

⊕ Packed with features
⊕ Great text printing
⊖ Average photo printing
⊖ Expensive

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"Ideal for everything other than photos."**

Stylish and functional, the Officejet Pro 8500 looks great on your desk.

You can't fault it for features. HP's Officejet Pro 8500 lets you fax or email documents directly from the printer, offers Duplex printing and can be connected to a network via Ethernet. The model here is wireless, enables Duplex scanning and has a 3.5-inch colour touchscreen.

HP has improved the paper feeder, with pages now pulled from the centre instead of the sides for fewer jams. You can add a second feeder tray if you wish. The 8500 boasts a 20% smaller footprint compared to predecessors, and measured against colour all-in-one laser printers, we're promised it's 50% cheaper to run and uses half the energy.

HP says its Officejet range isn't that ideal for photo printing, but the 8500 performed okay. It lacks the vibrancy of a dedicated photo printer and doesn't handle solid colours so well, but text printing is solid and clear, even at very low point sizes. Our 20-page test document printed in one minute, 46 seconds using *Preview*'s standard settings, which is excellent. It photocopies with clarity, though loses it a little on very tight parallel lines. Setting up a wireless connection is simple.

HP Officejet Pro 8500 is a good all-rounder that's packed with features. If you do a lot of photo printing it isn't for you, but for the home or small office it's ideal. At £300 it doesn't come cheap, so make sure you need all those features.
**Ian Osborne**

**»MULTIFUNCTION DEVICE**

# Canon PIXMA MX320

**£99** This MFD can't compete with Canon's five-tank offerings

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** Canon
www.canon.co.uk
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603515

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Printing tech:** Inkjet, **Scan res:** Up to 4,800x1,200dpi, **Inks:** Two, **Paper capacity:** 99 pages

### PROS & CONS

⊕ Packed with features
⊕ Standalone fax capabilities
⊖ Awkward, unintuitive controls
⊖ Text-only LCD screen

### VERDICT

★★★☆☆

**"This MFD is surprisingly disappointing for Canon."**

Usefully, the paper tray opens automatically when you start to print.

The Canon PIXMA MX320 is a four-function device that can print, fax, copy and scan. Connectivity is via USB or optional Bluetooth. Like all recent Canon printers, the output tray opens automatically when you start printing, a delightful touch that spares you the chore of having to open it yourself.

Printing our standard test image onto ordinary photocopier paper using *Preview*'s Standard quality setting gives mixed results. It's serviceable, but there is far too much banding in the darker areas. Ramping the print quality up to High improves things, but it still lacks the vibrancy of Canon's five-tank machines. Text printing is reasonable and its speed acceptable - a 20-page text file prints in three minutes, 28 seconds.

Where the MX320 really falls down is in its user-friendliness. The onboard controls are awkward, forcing you to reach for the manual to carry out tasks that should be intuitive. The two-line, monochrome LCD panel is cheap, even for a sub-£100 printer, and the bundled software is risible. But then, how many of us use software bundled with our MFDs anyway?

The MX320 isn't bad, but it's a disappointment compared to other printers in the Canon range. The MP630 is a much better all-round performer, and it will only set you back an extra £30, so unless you desperately need fax functionality, go for that model instead.
**Ian Osborne**

OLYMPUS
µ Tough
2m/6.6ft SHOCKPROOF
10m/33ft WATERPROOF
12 MEGAPIXEL

**This Olympus underwater camera is designed to be stood on, dropped, frozen or submerged to depths of 10m.**

**>> WATERPROOF DIGITAL CAMERA**

# Olympus µ Tough 8000

**£270** This rugged zoom camera is designed to take the knocks as well as a serious soaking

Cameras that will not self-destruct when seriously wet are not new, but some are better at taking a good soaking than others. The real deal, however, is a camera that will keep on working when completely submerged. The machismo of these Commando-style cameras is measured by how deep you can take them beneath the brine. As any swimming pool diver will know, water pressure builds up fast as you head below the surface.

The Olympus µ Tough 8000 can hold its breath and keep on shooting at depths of up to 10 metres. This makes a great gadget for surfers, sailors, snorkellers and accident-prone holidaymakers – but its real attraction is that it does not look like an out-and-out diver's accessory. It's not painted bright orange or yellow – it comes in blue, black or silver.

The Tough lives up to its name, as everything feels solid. The connector and battery covers are heavy duty affairs, and the shell is reassuringly metallic. And it's not just styling; Olympus says it can be dropped from a height of 2 metres or bear a 100kg weight, without caving in.

Despite this, the controls are too dainty for extreme conditions. The buttons would be hard to operate underwater or in a blizzard, and the menu system is hard to navigate.

> *"The Olympus µ Tough 8000 can hold its breath and keep on shooting at depths of up to 10m"*

The core features are well-suited to the outdoor life. The 3.6x zoom has a wide end (equivalent to 28mm on an old film camera). The close-up facilities are also top-notch. With limited visibility underwater, close focusing is essential if you're going to get good-looking pictures of marine life. There are three modes to do this; one uses an LED torch to light up the subject and aid focusing.

Image quality is reasonable, with a decent amount of detail and pleasing colours. Olympus gets extra points for supplying Mac-compatible software out of the box (OS X 10.3 or later). *Master 2* has some rather useful image editing tricks up its sleeve.

**Chris George**

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** Olympus
www.olympus.co.uk
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603073

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Resolution:** 12MP, **Lens:** 5-18.2mm, **Viewfinder:** 2.7 inch, **Memory card formats:** xD, Micro SD

### PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Waterproof to depths of 10m
- ⊕ Shockproof design
- ⊕ Decent wide angle lens
- ⊖ Controls are awkward to use

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"Rugged point-and-shoot camera for outdoor types."**

>>FINGERPRINT SCANNER

# Eikon To Go Privacy Manager

**£36** Ditch the password and get in touch with your Mac

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** UPEK, Inc
www.upek.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/604209

### SPECIFICATIONS

**OS:** 10.3 or later **Processor:** PPC G4, G5 or Intel **Dimensions:** 1.0 x 7.1 x 2.4 cm **Weight:** 15g

### PROS & CONS

⊕ Easy to use
⊕ Wasn't fooled by fake fingers
⊖ Questionable utility
⊖ Some features PC only

### VERDICT

★★½☆☆

**"A good gadget but it's not that great for Mac users."**

With this USB fingerprint scanner, you can replace your user account password with a finger swipe. After registering your fingerprints, set your login and authentication screens to prompt for a swipe, your password or both. Multiple users on the same Mac can register their prints with their own accounts, so you can use the scanner to facilitate user-switching too.

In a corporate environment, Eikon to Go would stop folks writing their passwords on Post-it notes and sticking them to their monitors. So, maybe it's of limited utility to the home user. With admin privileges, you can get into your account with your password even when you're set to swipe-only, leaving your Mac vulnerable if someone pinches it. Yet a swipe-only login stops you changing your Eikon settings or uninstalling the application without a print. Just make sure you don't lose or break your unit…

**This USB fingerprint reader works very well, but do you really need it?**

In testing it performed well, recognising registered fingerprints almost every time and refusing to be fooled by 'hacking' attempts. A cut or grazed finger doesn't always read, but you can register as many fingers as you like.

Although Eikon to Go works on the Mac and PC, many features are Windows-only. If Mac users enjoyed functions such as File and Folder Encryption, Application Launching and Security Tokens, it might well find its worth outside the office. But as it stands, for the home Mac, it's pretty much a solution looking for a problem.

**Ian Osborne**

>>NETWORK ATTACHED STORAGE

# Buffalo TeraStation III 2TB

**£667** Serious-league network storage for serious-league cash, but there's a lot to like here

### CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** Buffalo Technology
www.buffalo-technology.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/604216

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Capacity:** 2TB **Interfaces:** 2x Gigabit Ethernet, 2x USB 2.0 **Dimensions:** 170x215x230mm

### PROS & CONS

⊕ Fast read/write performance
⊕ Incredible storage space
⊖ Expensive, even for capacity
⊖ Flimsy door

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"An impressive secure NAS, but it'll cost you."**

The TeraStation III isn't your standard chunk of network storage. It's certainly in a different league to our recent group test of iTunes Servers (*MF* issue 207). Consumer-level storage has come a long way recently, but if you're after a serious amount of disk space, then you're still going to have to pay big bucks for it. But what do you get for your cash? Quite a lot, it transpires.

The TeraStation III boasts four 500GB hard drives. It offers full RAID support too, which means your 2TB can be used as raw storage, or more usefully as a fault-tolerant store for your data. The default configuration is RAID 5, which means that you're only presented with 1.35TB of space, but everything keeps working even if one of the drives fails. Slot a replacement in place and you can rebuild with barely any downtime.

Performance-wise there's a lot to like. The raw read speed, as measured by Helios LanTest, was good at 8.11MB/s. But it's the write speed that really shines, managing 8.19MB/s. This is the fastest NAS we've seen.

BUFFALO
TeraStation

**Four easily removable hard drives is a reassuring amount of storage.**

The TeraStation III also supports *Time Machine* for backing up your drives, boasts integrated BitTorrent and DLNA media servers; even the web interface is accessible and powerful. Apart from cost, the only other downside is that the four drives are protected by the flimsiest of doors. It won't deter thieves for a second…

**Alan Dexter**

**>> SOLID-STATE DRIVE**

# OCZ Apex and OCZ Vertex

**£275, £400** Solid-state drives are the future of storage; but are they worth it in the present?

We've lived with hard disks as the default storage technology for so long, it's easy to forget that they have some fundamental flaws. Having a platter of metal or glass spinning at high speed while a magnetic read/write head flies tens of nanometers above the surface is inherently fragile; it doesn't take much to crash that head onto the surface of the disk – bye-bye data – no matter how hard manufacturers try to mitigate the dangers with rubber-mounting and Apple's Sudden Motion Sensor. And because of the limitations of how the read/write head actually moves around the surface of the platters, hard disks can be sluggish when reading and writing data, which is fragmented across multiple sectors. They're relatively power-hungry, too, as any moving part can be.

Their natural successors are SSDs. Solid State Drives use a storage medium similar to the stuff in memory sticks. Most SSDs use the same enclosure size – notebook-sized '2.5-inch' in the case of the drives here – and SATA interface as standard hard disks, so it's easy to replace an HD with an SSD.

The price/capacity ratio is still in hard disks' favour, though; the two SSDs we have here from OCZ – from the mid-range Apex and premium Vertex lines – both store 120GB, while a 500GB hard disk of the same form factor would cost you maybe £100. Surely, then, SSD is just too immature a technology to be worth buying? No.

**It's easy to swap the hard disk in a MacBook or unibody MacBook Pro for one of these robust SSDs.**

OCZ
ocztechnology.com
VERTEX SER
SATA II 2.5"
OCZ
ocztechnology.com
Apex Series
SATA II 2.5" SOLID STATE DRIVE
D 01 A 20090108 BS10000

While they're hardly cheap, we will say that they're worth the money. When it comes to reliability, while it's true that SSDs have a finite number of read/write cycles, they're much more robust; stick one in a MacBook or unibody MacBook Pro and you'll be able to throw it about much more. Note that both drives were a smidge larger than our test white MacBook expected; the squeeze gave us problems with the mounting rails.

> *"Having a platter of glass spinning at high speed while a magnetic read/write head flies above the surface is inherently fragile..."*

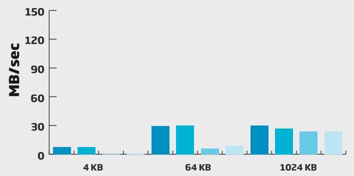
With perfomance, even the cheaper Vertex beats a mid-range 5,400rpm Hitachi Travelstar hard disk in sequential read and write performance, being three times faster. Random write performance is also tripled, and random read performance is 14 times better. The sequential read/write performance of the Vertex is comparable – we didn't see its quoted 240MB/sec speed.

But where it shines is in random reads and writes. Its performance made the system feel really nippy.

**Christopher Phin**

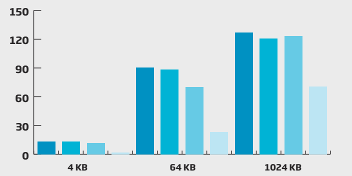
## >> BENCHMARKS / How do SSDs stack up?

Tested with QuickBench from www.speedtools.com



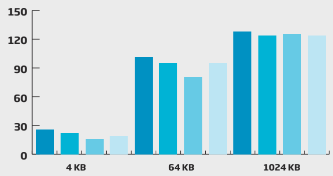
### Hard disk

We benchmarked a 5,400rpm Hitachi Travelstar. As expected, random access for small file blocks is sluggish.



### Apex

The Apex performs much better with sequential read/writes; random is better than the HD, but not stellar.



### Vertex

The Vertex is much more consistent across all tests, though its quoted max 240MB/sec was nowhere to be seen.

**KEY:** ■ Sequential read ■ Sequential write ■ Random read ■ Random write

## CONTACTS

**Manufacturer:** OCZ
www.ocztechnology.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/604226

## SPECIFICATIONS

### Apex 120GB

**Capacity:** 120GB (60GB, 250GB available; binary capacity) **Form factor:** 2.5-inch **Operating temperature:** -10°C - +70°C

### Vertex 120GB

**Capacity:** 120GB (30GB, 60GB, 250GB available; binary capacity) **Form factor:** 2.5-inch **Operating temperature:** 0°C - +70°C

## PROS & CONS

### Apex 120GB

- ⊕ Robust
- ⊕ Fast sequential read/write
- ⊕ Good value
- ⊖ A very tight fit

### Vertex 120GB

- ⊕ Superb random read/write speed
- ⊕ Robust
- ⊖ Firmware upgrade needs Windows
- ⊖ A big price tag

## VERDICT

### Apex 120GB

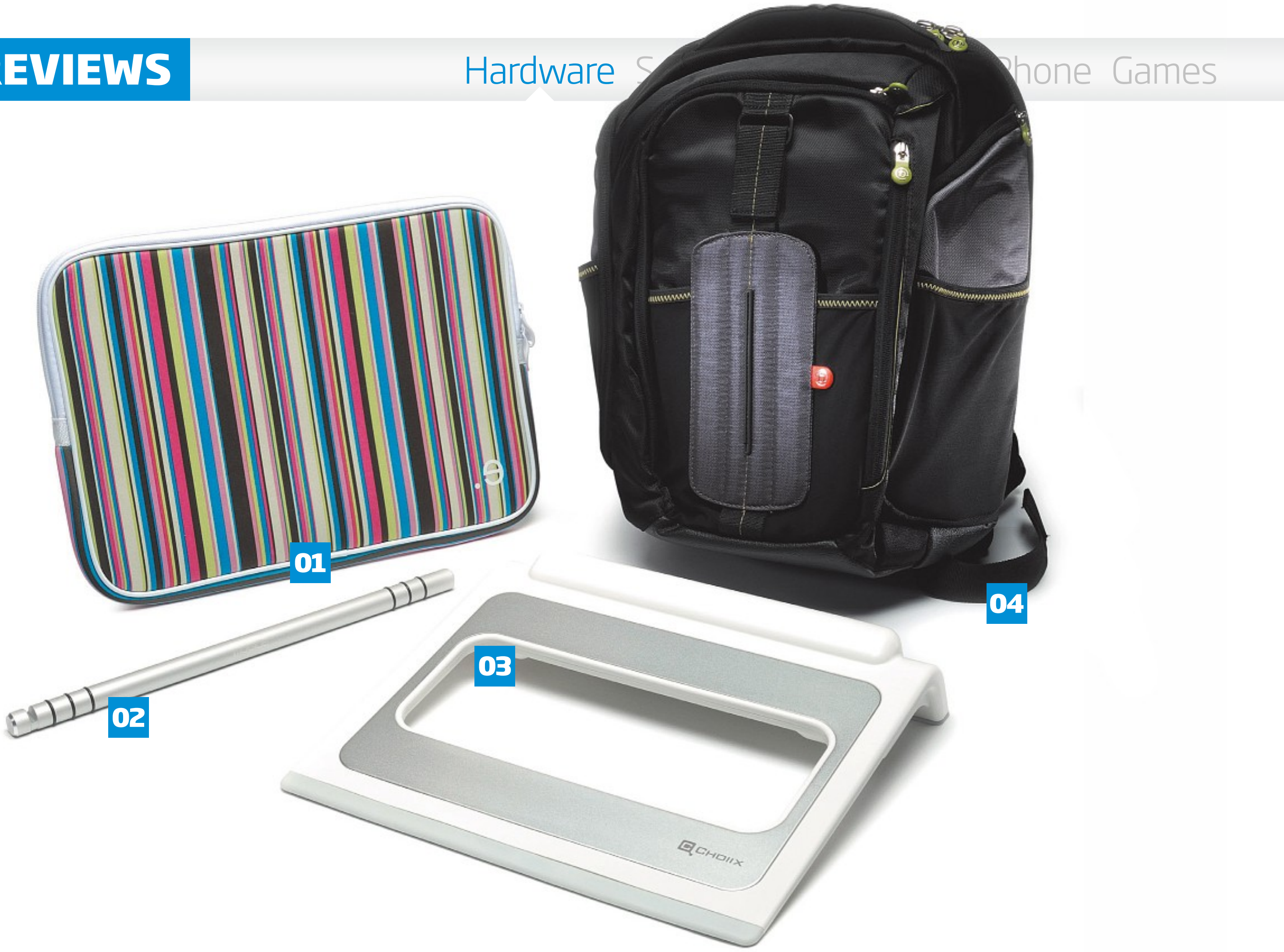
★★★★☆

**"Good upgrade for MacBook/ MacBook Pro with price/ performance balance."**

### Vertex 120GB

★★★½☆

**"Excellent performance, but speed topped out at around 130MB/sec."**



**» LAPTOP SLEEVE**

## be.ez LArobe Allure

**From £16** www.be-ez.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602639

**01** Available in a range of sizes and styles, the LArobe Allure is a high-quality laptop sleeve. It's made from 5mm-thick high-density padding, using low-resilient Polyurethane technology, making for an extremely high degree of protection for your notebook.

Not everyone will appreciate the patterns and designs, but the build quality is first rate, with sturdy stitching and a solid, meaty zip. It's just the thing to protect your Apple laptop from minor bumps and scrapes.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★★☆

**"Interesting colour scheme, but very durable."**

**» LAPTOP RAISER**

## Just Mobile Cooling Bar

**£30** www.just-mobile.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602698

**02** The Cooling Bar takes a different approach to ergonomic typing. Instead of a full-on stand, it's a barrel styled to match Apple's aluminium laptop range. At 38cm long it's ideal for the MacBook; the 15.4-inch MacBook Pro fits fine but it covers the slot designed to secure the power cord.

Resting on its rubber-footed underside, it feels stable when supporting your laptop and allows a decent airflow underneath, and is handy enough to carry around in your laptop bag.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★½☆

**"An excellent and attractive on-the-move raiser solution."**

**» LAPTOP RAISER**

## Choiix Air-Through

**£35** www.choiix.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602693

**03** If you use your MacBook at your desk as well as on the move, this stand could be for you. It offers a more comfortable typing position, has two USB-powered cooling fans and gives you four extra USB ports.

The USB port connecting the stand to your laptop is on the right – ideal for the MacBook Air, but awkward for MacBooks. In our tests the fans didn't do much to cool the CPU over short periods, but they could be useful if you leave your machine on overnight to process video, for instance.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★½☆

**"Comfortable for typing and useful as a peripherals dock."**

**» LAPTOP BAG**

## booq Taipan Pack

**£85** www.booq.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602708

**04** Each booq Taipan Pack is smartly tagged with a unique identification number. Once you've purchased your bag, register the number with booq's Terralinq service, then if you lose it, you've a better chance of getting your bag – and, more importantly, the valuable laptop it contains – returned to you.

This product is designed for those on the move. It's sturdy, waterproof and packed with pockets. It offers waist support, shoulder straps, and accessible pouches. A great product.

**Ian Osborne**

**VERDICT**

★★★★☆

**"A quality bag, and the unique identifier is a great idea."**

The in-depth guide for creative professionals
computer
arts
projects
Issue 125
Interactive design
AIR

# Interactive design

Keep your users clicking – all the skills you'll need to take your work to the next level, across all platforms

**Projects**

- Control time-lapse video clips in Flash
- Design a slick UI with JavaScript and CSS
- Pushing the limits of mobile technology
- Experiment with augmented reality

**Plus**

- Poke London on taking creative risks
- Innovative viral marketing techniques
- Six to Start, Best in Show at SXSWi 2009
- This year's hottest Webby-winning work
- 2Advanced's Shane Mielke's career so far
- Experimental graphic interfaces
- Design for your users, not for yourself

>> PRESENTATION TEMPLATES

# Macware PowerSlides

**£20** Extend your presentation possibilities with these Keynote and PowerPoint templates

### CONTACTS

**Developer:** Macware, Inc
www.pxsoftware.co.uk/macware.php
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602772

### SPECIFICATIONS

**OS:** Mac OS X 10.3 or later
**Other:** Keynote 2.0 or later, PowerPoint 2004/Office X

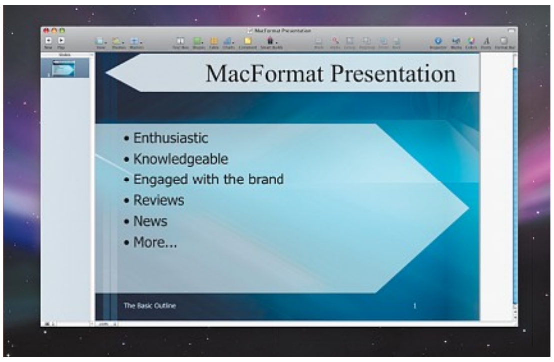
### PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to install
- ⊕ Works for Keynote & PowerPoint
- ⊕ Extends design options
- ⊖ Not quite as polished as Apple

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"A good set of templates to add variety to your docs."**



MacFormat Presentation

- Enthusiastic
- Knowledgeable
- Engaged with the brand
- Reviews
- News
- More...

The Basic Outline

**PowerSlides gives you lots of options to polish up your presentations.**

The two business tools of choice for many professionals tend to be *Keynote* and *PowerPoint*. And while neither application can tell you when you're boring your audience, they can at least help make your presentation look good. If you do lots of presentations, though, the built-in templates can quickly become over-used.

*PowerSlides* from Macware is a collection of hundreds of backgrounds and templates for you to use to keep your work fresh. For £20, you get a single DVD that can install in either *PowerPoint* or *Keynote*. It takes a few minutes to get through the installer, but the process is relatively painless.

The range of options is impressive, and anyone looking to extend their presentation possibilities without having to spend time designing their own slides, won't be disappointed. Though beauty is in the eye of the beholder, we can't really say the examples match the class and style of the Apple-designed templates you get with *Keynote*. That said, they're not poor or badly put together; just a touch less-polished than Apple's. The same goes for *PowerPoint* users too.

*PowerSlides* is good value for money and it opens new options to your presentation designs. However, you might find that you will have to do a bit more work to them yourself in order to bring them up to Apple levels of design flair.

**Christopher Brennan**

>> FONT MANAGEMENT TOOL

# Macware MacFonts 2

**£20** 1,000 non-commercial fonts and a management tool seems like a bargain. Is it?

### CONTACTS

**Developer:** Macware, Inc
www.pxsoftware.co.uk
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602757

### SPECIFICATIONS

Mac OS X 10.2.6 or higher

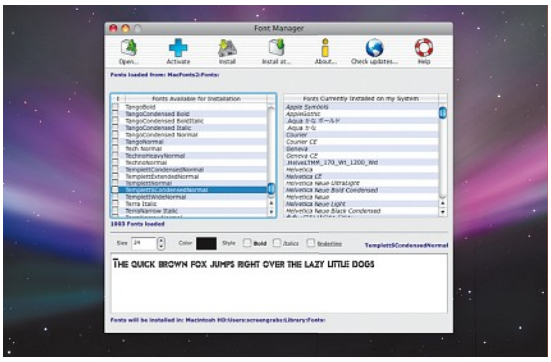
### PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good selection of typefaces
- ⊕ Only £20
- ⊕ Can temporarily activate fonts
- ⊖ FontManager is not all that

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"Good fonts with an average management app."**



Fonts loaded from: MacFonts2:Fonts:

1003 Fonts loaded

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS RIGHT OVER THE LAZY LITTLE DOGS

Fonts will be installed in: Macintosh HD:Users:screengrabs:Library:Fonts:

**MacFonts gives you free reign of ,1000 fonts, but only for personal use.**

Selecting the right font for your work can be tricky, but the more options you have, the easier it is to pick a look for your documents. *MacFonts 2* is a collection of 1,000 typefaces in OpenType and TrueType formats, supplied with a font management tool to help you install them.

The typefaces themselves cover a decent range and aren't simply the leftovers from the first version of the *MacFonts* family. Some are certainly one-trick ponies, such as Typekeys, which (as the name suggests) is a font represented by keyboard tiles. Others, such as Ameretto, offer a refreshing alternative to the font holy trinity of Times, Helvetica and Arial. Some are a bit twee, but mainly there's a perfectly good cross-section.

The supplied *FontManager* utility is passable as a management tool. It allows you to temporarily activate fonts easily, and makes it simple to install a selection of typefaces rather than just one or all, so it's not all bad. That said, there's not much here that improves or expands upon *Font Book*, OS X's native typeface manager. The fonts are only licensed for personal use too, so if you're looking for commercial typefaces, this isn't for you. However, the £20 price tag isn't bank-breaking and the fonts are worth that amount of cash.

An overview of the fonts can be found at http://bit.ly/MacFonts2.

**Christopher Brennan**

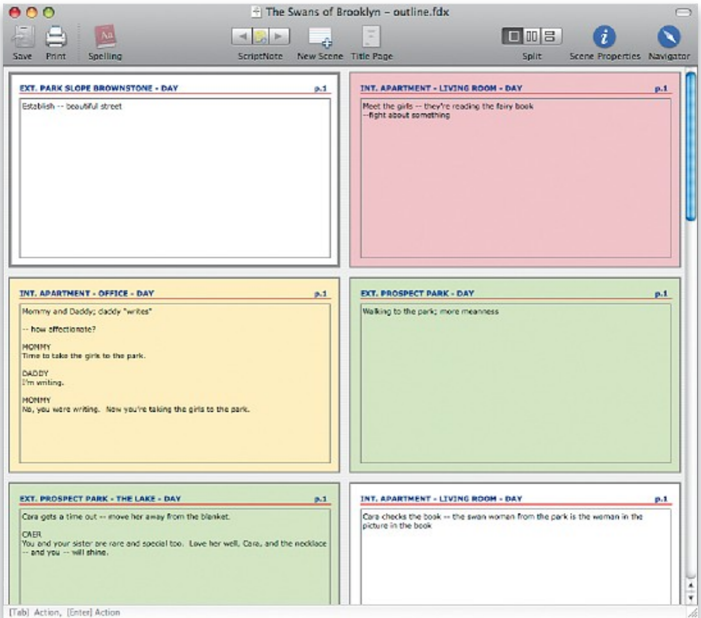
>> SCREENWRITING SOFTWARE

# Final Draft 8

**£170** Write scripts with the software the pros use, if you can work out how to use it…

There are many software packages for writing screenplays, but the undisputed industry leader is *Final Draft*. Far more than a word processor, *Final Draft* includes formatting, versioning, structuring and even copyright-registering tools.

The idea is simple. You break your script down into scenes using one of the built-in templates, formatted in the standard script style, complete with 'mores' and 'continueds' at breaks, scene headers and title pages. *Final Draft* lets you keep track, reorganise, tag and colour-code scenes, and write 'index cards'. Also, if you need more scenes, just insert them, detailing what needs to happen but leave them blank until you get round to writing them.



EXT. PARK SLOPE BROWNSTONE - DAY p.1
Establish -- beautiful street

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY p.1
Meet the girls -- they're reading the fairy book
--fight about something

INT. APARTMENT - OFFICE - DAY p.1
Mommy and Daddy; daddy "writes"

-- how affectionate?

MOMMY
Time to take the girls to the park.

DADDY
I'm writing.

MOMMY
No, you were writing.  Now you're taking the girls to the park.

EXT. PROSPECT PARK - DAY p.1
Walking to the park; more meanness

EXT. PROSPECT PARK - THE LAKE - DAY p.1
Cara gets a time out -- move her away from the blanket.

CAER
You and your sister are rare and special too.  Love her well, Cara, and the necklace -- and you -- will shine.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY p.1
Cara checks the book -- the swan woman from the park is the woman in the picture in the book

[Tab] Action, [Enter] Action

**The new double-sided index card feature enables you to keep on top of your scenes.**

## Helpful assistants

The program also has many minor assists, such as character-name autocompletes and a names database. There's a Reports function, which tells you which characters and locations get focused on the most.

Since writing doesn't stop with the screenplay but continues on-set, there are also some useful versioning and formatting tools so you can omit, lock and colour-code scenes according to revision number. A standalone application, *Final Draft Tagger*, lets production staff tag items in scripts such as costumes, then export them to scheduling applications.

> *"The standalone Final Draft Tagger, lets production staff tag items in scripts, then export them to scheduling applications"*

Commanding £170 (or £160 for the download version) and used by everyone in the business, *Final Draft 8* has rested on its laurels in recent years, particularly the Mac version. But *version 8* is an eye-opener. As well as adding some useful new features, the developers have stepped away from their previous approach of making everything look the same on Mac and Windows, so now everyone feels at home. The interface is now far more Mac-like, with brushed metal windows and an OS X-standard customisable toolbar.

There are also two new palettes for managing structure and metadata. A Scene Properties Inspector (SPI) and a Scene Navigator. The former lets you add information to scenes, while the Scene Navigator provides an easy way to view and sort the information and jump to pages. The index cards are 'double sided' so you can view the additional info and then organise scenes by drag and drop – you can do a similar thing with Scene View, which gives you a list of scenes, with any information you've added. You can now also split the screen to view notes and script side by side.

Also new to *version 8* are improved templates, and a better spellchecker and a thesaurus. A new workspace preference lets *Final Draft* open all the files you had open, in the order you were working on them. Printing and PDFing have also been improved.

## Facing up to the competition

While, the tools and interface of *Final Draft* are inferior to those of cheaper rivals *Scrivener*, *Storymill*, *Contour* and *Montage*, this tool has the pros in mind and it's with production that it excels. Newcomers probably needn't splash out on it, seeing as other programs can export to the *FD* format. But to old hands, the new tools are a must-have.

**Rob Buckley**

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Final Draft, Inc
www.finaldraft.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602739

## SPECIFICATIONS

**RAM:** minimum 512 MB RAM, 50MB available hard drive space **OS:** OS X 10.4.11 or later **Other:** CD-ROM drive or internet connection

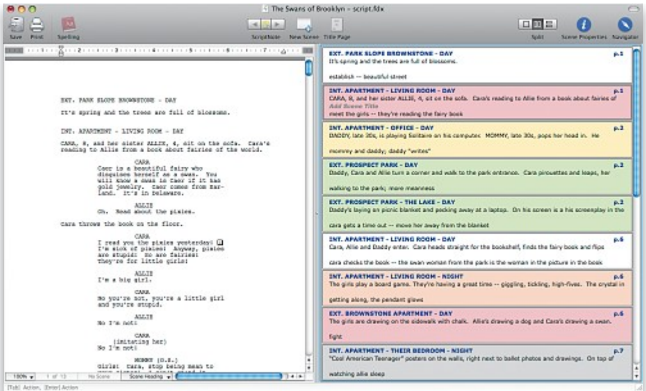
## PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Powerful production
- ⊕ Good new index card feature
- ⊕ Improved pagination controls
- ⊕ Easier to view information
- ⊖ Interface not that user-friendly
- ⊖ Tools inferior to rivals'

## VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"Despite minor usability issues, this is the tool of choice for professional scriptwriters."**



**Split the screen to view your script and 'index cards' side by side, for easy reference.**

>> WINDOWS COMPATIBILITY LAYER

# CrossOver Mac Professional 7.1.2

**£45** Run Windows apps without Windows. But is it too good to be true?

### CONTACTS

**Developer:** CodeWeavers
www.codeweavers.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/603121

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Processor:** Intel Mac **RAM:** 512MB
**OS:** Mac OS X 10.4.4 or later
**Other:** 100MB disk space

### PROS & CONS

- ⊕ CrossOver is well-priced
- ⊕ No need to buy Windows
- ⊕ When it works, it's quite good...
- ⊖ ...which isn't that often
- ⊖ Low compatibility
- ⊖ Not particularly Mac-friendly

### VERDICT

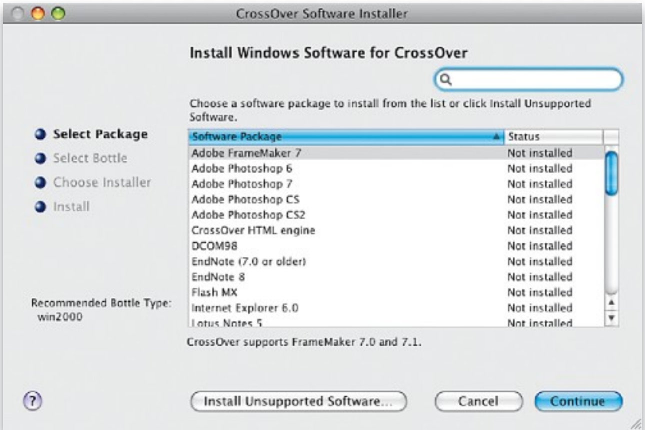
★★☆☆☆

**"Great in theory, but flawed in practice."**

Before we go any further, we'd like to make something perfectly clear. We really like the idea behind CodeWeavers *CrossOver Mac Professional*, which is the ability to run Windows applications on a Mac without having to install Windows itself. Instead of using a *Boot Camp* partition or a virtual machine in *Fusion* or *Parallels Desktop*, *CrossOver* utilises the WINE compatibility layer so you can install Windows apps to your Mac's hard drive and run them within OS X as if they were native Mac apps.

### Compatibility issues

It's a great idea, in theory at least, but unforutnately it doesn't work particularly well in practice. In fact, we would go as far as saying that *CrossOver* is one of the most frustrating experiences we've had on a Mac. The main problem with the program is compatibility – or rather the lack thereof. To be fair, CodeWeavers is up-front about this on the *CrossOver* website, providing compatibility lists (albeit ones lacking a real 'standard', seemingly relying on user submissions for an application's status), but it's nonetheless disheartening when you boot *CrossOver* for the first time and see the tiny list of supported applications, most of which are out of date (for example, *CrossOver* supports *Internet Explorer 6*, but not *7* or *8*).


CrossOver Software Installer
Select Package
Select Bottle
Choose Installer
Install
?
Install Unsupported Software...
Cancel
Continue

Install Windows Software for CrossOver

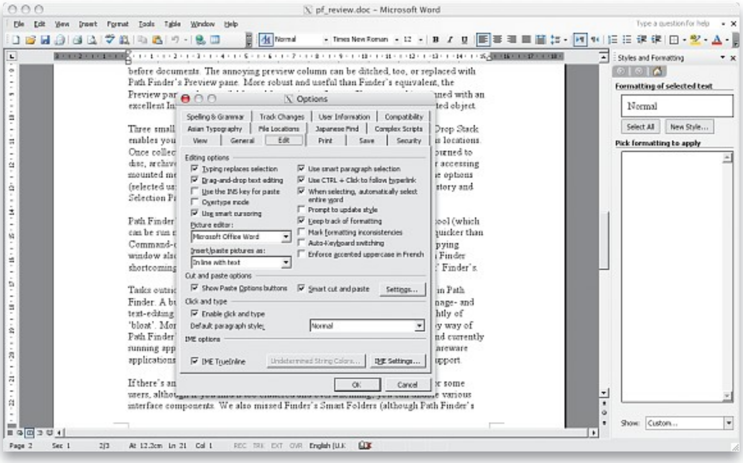
Choose a software package to install from the list or click Install Unsupported Software.

| Software Package | Status |
|---|---|
| Adobe FrameMaker 7 | Not installed |
| Adobe Photoshop 6 | Not installed |
| Adobe Photoshop 7 | Not installed |
| Adobe Photoshop CS | Not installed |
| Adobe Photoshop CS2 | Not installed |
| CrossOver HTML engine | Not installed |
| DCOM98 | Not installed |
| EndNote (7.0 or older) | Not installed |
| EndNote 8 | Not installed |
| Flash MX | Not installed |
| Internet Explorer 6.0 | Not installed |
| Lotus Notes 5 | Not installed |

Recommended Bottle Type: win2000

CrossOver supports FrameMaker 7.0 and 7.1.

**Installation is incredibly straightforward for fully supported apps, but hit-and-miss for everything else.**


pf_review.doc – Microsoft Word
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Window Help
Type a question for help
Normal
Times New Roman
12
Styles and Formatting
Formatting of selected text
Normal
Select All
New Style...
Pick formatting to apply
Show: Custom...
Options
Spelling & Grammar
Track Changes
User Information
Compatibility
Asian Typography
File Locations
Japanese Find
Complex Scripts
View
General
Edit
Print
Save
Security
Settings...
Undetermined String Colors...
IME Settings...
OK
Cancel
Page 2 Sec 1 2/3 At 12.2cm Ln 21 Col 1 REC TRK EXT OVR English (U.K

Editing options
- ☑ Typing replaces selection
- ☑ Drag-and-drop text editing
- ☐ Use the INS key for paste
- ☐ Overtype mode
- ☑ Use smart cursoring
- ☑ Use smart paragraph selection
- ☑ Use CTRL + Click to follow hyperlink
- ☑ When selecting, automatically select entire word
- ☐ Prompt to update style
- ☑ Keep track of formatting
- ☐ Mark formatting inconsistencies
- ☐ Auto-Keyboard switching
- ☐ Enforce accented uppercase in French

Picture editor: Microsoft Office Word
Insert/paste pictures as: In line with text

Cut and paste options
- ☑ Show Paste Options buttons
- ☑ Smart cut and paste

Click and type
- ☑ Enable click and type

Default paragraph style: Normal

IME options
- ☑ IME TrueInline

**When it works, CrossOver works well, even if the resulting UI is unattractive.**

There is some good news, though. For those few applications which are supported, *CrossOver* isn't half bad. We installed *Office 2003*, and the process was painless – *CrossOver* recognised the installer, downloaded some fonts, and once the suite was launched it generally worked fine, even printing to our Mac's printer. There were bugs here and there, such as *Word* complaining when we tried to download online templates, but for general use we didn't find any major deal-breakers. Additionally, instances of Windows apps behaved in *Exposé*, and the Mac's file system was accessible from dialog boxes. Also, *CrossOver* didn't tax our test Mac, co-existing nicely with other open applications.

Elsewhere, though, *CrossOver* is the install equivalent of Russian roulette. During testing, we tried a slew of applications (and a handful of games in *CrossOver Games*, which is free with *CrossOver Mac Professional*). Many of these apps refused to install, some toyed with us before locking up halfway, and others seemingly installed fine but then refused to boot, or launched but were largely unusable, such as *Paint Shop Pro*.

Ultimately, *CrossOver Mac Professional* is a product with stiff competition, and it really only has two weapons: a low price and its 'Mac only' stance. But even the latter of those things is misleading. Although you're never mired in Windows, *CrossOver*'s install process can still be complex, and when things go wrong, you're left flailing. More importantly, the app is often less Mac-friendly than its rivals. For example, you can't redefine modifier shortcuts, nor can you drag-and-drop content between Mac and Windows apps.

> *"Although CrossOver Mac appeals as a concept and you don't need a copy of Windows, we prefer Fusion and Parallels"*

### Is it worth it?

Regarding price, there's no denying CodeWeavers' application is cheap, but that has to be balanced against usability and compatibility. For our money, although *CrossOver* appeals as a concept and you don't need a copy of Windows, we much prefer *Fusion* and *Parallels*. And unless you only care for the few apps fully supported by *CrossOver*, we suspect you will, too.

**Craig Grannell**

>> EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

# Berlitz French Premier

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

**£30** Probably the best language training system available for a computer

Berlitz has an impressive reputation as a language school, so you'd expect any language software bearing its name to be equally impressive.

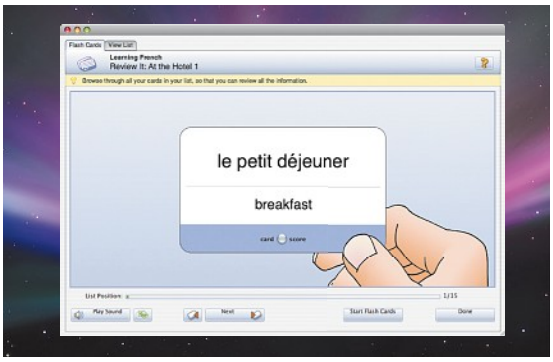
*Berlitz Premier* is an incredibly good tutoring system aimed at everyone from beginners to reasonable speakers who want to brush up. For £30, you get the Mac and the Windows tutoring programs, PocketPC and Palm programs, four audio CDs and some exercises for your iPod/MP3 player.

The tutorial system aims to provide as many ways for you to learn as possible. It provides four 'immersion' videos. The basic videos show native speakers giving simple words and phrases for survival in France, complete with gestures. The more advanced videos depict dramas, such as a surprise party and conversations between friends.

How you use these videos is up to you. You can listen along, or go through the transcript, getting advice on words and grammar. There are games that test you on the words used, and a pronunciation system that records what you say and compares it with a native speaker's pronunciation. There's even a role-play centre and a set of flashcards.

If you finish everything, you will have learnt a great deal. Niggles are there's no real grammar training, and the pronunciation trainer only helps with pronunciation; no match against a real-life teacher.

**Rob Buckley**


Flash Cards
View List
Learning French
Review It: At the Hotel 1
le petit déjeuner
breakfast
card
score
List Position:
1/15
Play Sound
Next
Start Flash Cards
Done

Browse through all your cards in your list, so that you can review all the information.

**The excellent flashcard system helps you memorise vocabulary.**

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Avanquest

www.avanquest.com

**Latest price on TechRadar**

www.techradar.com/602887

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Processor:** G3 or greater/Intel Mac **RAM:** 128MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.2.8 or later **Other:** CD-ROM drive

## PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Has a pronunciation trainer
- ⊕ Provides videos
- ⊕ Ideal for on-the-go learning
- ⊖ No proper grammar training

## VERDICT

★★★★★

**"Not for fluent speakers but great otherwise."**

>> EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

# Byki Deluxe 4.0 (French)

**£36** A great but limited way to learn foreign vocabulary at your desk

One of the hardest parts of learning a language is the vocabulary. No matter how good your grammar and pronunciation, ultimately it's all down to the words you learn and can understand. And for learning words, flashcards are hard to beat.

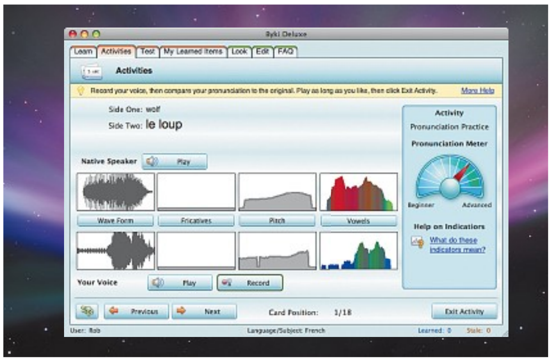
*Byki Deluxe* is one of the premier flashcard programs available. Taking advantage of the Mac's multimedia facilities, it includes audio files of words and phrases, a recording system to compare your pronunciation with a native speaker's, a variety of games and tests. There are also MP3 files for your iPod so you can learn and listen on the go.

The French version we tested came with 153 lists for more than 2,000 words and phrases. These cover most situations and include some quite obscure words that should be new to even seasoned French speakers. Other lists, created by *Byki* users, are available for download. You can create your own, too.

Although it's an excellent flashcard program, it's only a vocabulary tutor. There's no grammar instruction, the pronunciation tutor is a blunt instrument that's not much help in improving your spoken French, and there's no real way to build fluency or understanding of longer conversations.

Although in most areas it's exceeded by its Berlitz equivalent, *Byki Deluxe* is available in more languages, including some obscure ones (Tuvan, anyone?). It's a useful but expensive tool for building up vocabulary.

**Rob Buckley**


Byki Deluxe
Learn
Activities
Test
My Learned Items
Look
Edit
FAQ
Activities
More Help
Side One: wolf
Side Two: le loup
Native Speaker
Play
Wave Form
Fricatives
Pitch
Vowels
Your Voice
Play
Record
Activity
Pronunciation Practice
Pronunciation Meter
Beginner
Advanced
Help on Indications
What do these indicators mean?
Previous
Next
Card Position: 1/18
Exit Activity
User: Rob
Language/Subject: French
Learned: 0
Stale: 0

Record your voice, then compare your pronunciation to the original. Play as long as you like, then click Exit Activity.

**Byki's pronunciation tutor is helpful but a blunt instrument.**

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Transparent Language

www.transparent.com

**Latest price on TechRadar**

www.techradar.com/602915

## SPECIFICATIONS

**OS:** Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

**Other:** Safari

## PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Wide range of lists to drill
- ⊕ Includes pronunciations of words
- ⊖ Focused purely on vocabulary
- ⊖ Expensive

## VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"It's a great supplement to other language systems."**

>> AUDIO SLOW-DOWN TOOL FOR MUSICIANS

# Capo 1.0.2

**$49 (£33)** Play-by-ear musicians rejoice – here's the ultimate playback app for you

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** SuperMegaUltraGroovy
supermegaultragroovy.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/ 602793

## SPECIFICATIONS

**OS:** Mac OS X 10.5 or later

## PROS & CONS

- + Fantastic, clear UI
- + Loops and markers
- + Fast and efficient
- − No song or loop export

## VERDICT

★★★★★

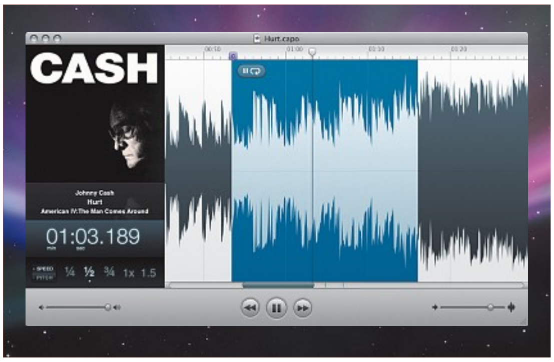
**"A simple app with attention to detail."**

This app enables you to slow down songs dragged from *iTunes*, without affecting pitch, so you can easily hear the notes and learn how they're played. The app isn't alone in its field, but it betters *Amazing Slow Downer* and *Transcribe* by way of a stunning user interface.

A single window houses album art, a timer detailing your location in the song, speed and pitch controls, the waveform and playhead, as well as volume and playback controls. Attention to detail is stunning. For example, playback speed can be snapped to one of five presets, but a slider accessed via a mouseover enables you to choose values in-between. Pitch controls work similarly. Smaller increments are used for matching tuning and larger ones for changing key. In the waveform area, you can drop markers, which come in verse, chorus and bridge varieties, and if you find a particular part of a song tricky, loop it via a drag-selection and click.

*Capo*'s useful touches soon become apparent: the vertical bars in the scrollbar that represent markers; the keyboard shortcuts; and separate play/pause toggles for playback and playing a selected loop. Aside, from a lack of song and loop export, *Capo* has no negatives, and while one might argue for extra features such as note-taking, we'd happily forego those for the solid and refined experience on offer.

**Craig Grannell**



Capo provides a stylish interface for playing back slowed-down songs.

>> TWITTER CLIENT

# atebits Tweetie 1.1.1

**Free/$20 (£13.50)** The best Twitter client around makes the leap from iPhone to Mac OS X

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** atebits LLC
www.atebits.com/tweetie-mac
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602839

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Processor:** G4, G5 or Intel Mac
**OS:** Mac OS X 10.5+

## PROS & CONS

- + Multi-account support
- + Rock-solid and fast
- − Unique, usable interface
- − Shortcuts for everything

## VERDICT

★★★★★

**"Superb and this update makes it even better."**

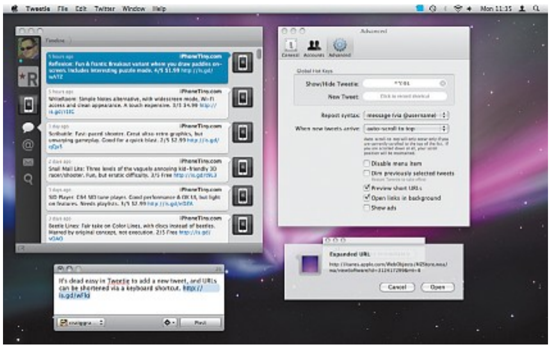
When it appeared on iPhone, *Tweetie* made desktop-based Twitter clients seem comparatively antiquated. *Tweetie*'s features and clean UI made us hope it would be the first app to move from iPhone to the desktop. April saw our wish come true when *Tweetie for Mac* appeared. Even though it was different from the iPhone release, it retained the same sense of design, style and usability.

Although *Tweetie*'s interface is distinctive, it's very usable. Rather than splattering words everywhere, icons rule. The sidebar provides a means of dealing with multiple accounts without using tabs – a quick stab on an icon focuses an account and provides access to its timeline, replies, direct messages and searches. For the keyboard-obsessed, most actions can be driven by a shortcut.

*Tweetie* is also hugely configurable. You choose your URL shortening and image services, repost syntax, and global hot-keys for showing and hiding *Tweetie*. This version also makes the best better, adding saved searches, per-account notification preferences, *Growl* support, and bug fixes and tweaks.

If that all wasn't enough, *Tweetie* doesn't have to cost a penny. If you don't fancy paying the shareware fee (although we say you should, because *Tweetie*'s so good), you can use it for free. And even the adverts trump those in *Tweetie*'s contemporaries, by virtue of being surprisingly relevant and non-intrusive.

**Craig Grannell**



Clockwise: main window, preferences, URL preview and new Tweets.

>> GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

# MacFamilyTree 5.5.2

**$49 (£30)** All the tools a serious family historian could want, from cradle to grave…

As an industrial-strength genealogy application for the serious family historian, *MacFamilyTree* is tough to beat. You can rough out a family tree pretty quickly and then return to fill in the details as you research them – and boy, does *MacFamilyTree* support details – or, if you already have all the information to hand, creating entries is straightforward once you get into the rhythm of it.

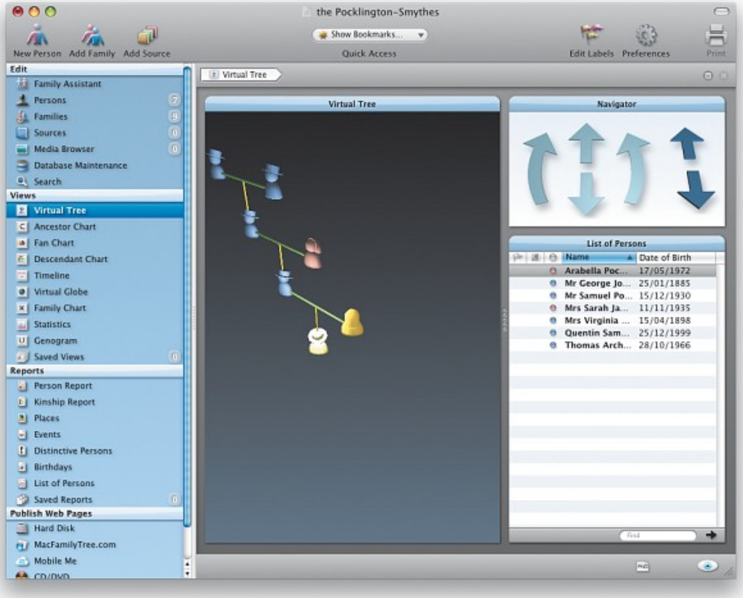
The interface is not always so intuitive – adding parents to a person's entry is confusing, for example – but once you're familiar with these quirks, you'll find that the manner in which *MacFamilyTree* presents your data and options is consistent, and as your family database grows, you'll appreciate the ways that the application allows you to make links between individuals.

The level of detail supported by *MacFamilyTree* will satisfy all levels of genealogists. For instance, more than 50 events and other types of information can be stored for each individual, ranging from the obvious (name, birth date, death date) to the more arcane (bar mitzvah, emigration, miscarriage, probate).

> *"The level of detail supported by MacFamilyTree, from the obvious to the arcane, will satisfy all levels of genealogists"*

There is some US bias, as in categories for social security number and for events specific to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), but there's no compulsion to use them. There are no glaring omissions, and any extras you need can be covered with the catch-all Other Event category.

For the dedicated family historian, merging, appending and exporting files compatible with the Genealogical Data Communication (GEDCOM) will be valuable, while the more easily amused will appreciate the 3D family trees, with little man-and-woman icons representing each ancestor. More than just a gimmick, these are also a handy way to skip from one person's record to another without scrolling through a list of names.


the Pocklington-Smythes
New Person
Add Family
Add Source
Show Bookmarks…
Quick Access
Edit Labels
Preferences
Print
Edit
Family Assistant
Persons
Families
Sources
Media Browser
Database Maintenance
Search
Views
Virtual Tree
Ancestor Chart
Fan Chart
Descendant Chart
Timeline
Virtual Globe
Family Chart
Statistics
Genogram
Saved Views
Reports
Person Report
Kinship Report
Places
Events
Distinctive Persons
Birthdays
List of Persons
Saved Reports
Publish Web Pages
Hard Disk
MacFamilyTree.com
Mobile Me
CD/DVD
Virtual Tree
Virtual Tree
Navigator
List of Persons
Find

| Name | Date of Birth |
|---|---|
| Arabella Poc… | 17/05/1972 |
| Mr George Jo… | 25/01/1885 |
| Mr Samuel Po… | 15/12/1930 |
| Mrs Sarah Ja… | 11/11/1935 |
| Mrs Virginia … | 15/04/1898 |
| Quentin Sam… | 25/12/1999 |
| Thomas Arch… | 28/10/1966 |

**The Virtual Tree feature is more than a bit of snazz – it's a quick way to skip around individuals.**

Of course, that's not the only way *MacFamilyTree* can present the data you've entered. Other options include ancestor, fan and descendant charts; a timeline; a globe, if you've provided coordinates for events; and lists of persons, kinship, places and the like. Another feature allows you to browse historical events that coincide with dates you've entered; they're automatically linked to the relevant Wikipedia pages, and you can create your own events and web links too.

And once your family tree is complete enough to show off, this application lets you publish it to HTML on your Mac's hard disk, Mobile Me or CD/DVD, or log on to the *MacFamilyTree* site and host it there. Date and name formats and the like are all customisable, so users who need to adhere to specific standards are well served.

The range of choices, both in data entry and in presentation, can seem overwhelming, and there are times when the interface is befuddling. However, *MacFamilyTree* is worth persevering with – and the level of detail that it supports may even encourage you to explore deeper into your family history.

**Barnaby Page**

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Synium Software
www.synium.de
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602941

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Processor:** ATI Radeon 7500, Intel GMA 950 or Nvidia GeForce 4 MX graphics chipset or better **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4.11 **Other:** Safari 3.0

## PROS & CONS

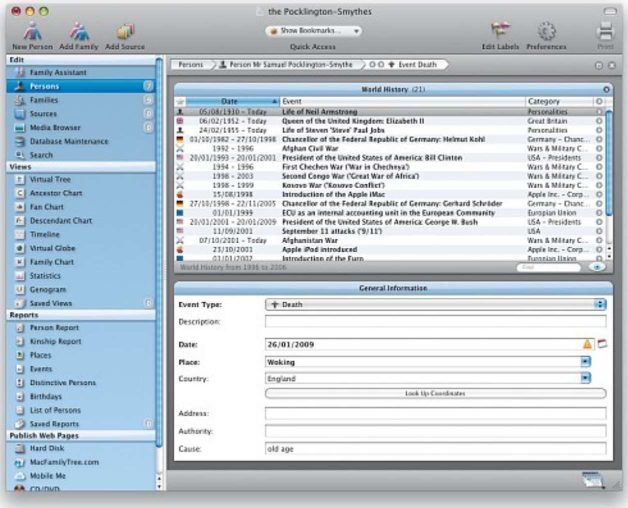
- ⊕ Very high level of detail on individuals
- ⊕ Links to historical events
- ⊕ Easy publishing to web or storage media
- ⊕ GEDCOM compatibility
- ⊖ A bit of American bias
- ⊖ Interface sometimes confusing

## VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"Powerful data and presentation features more than outweigh occasional trickiness."**

**Linking to historical events can add a new dimension to the records of each ancestor.**


the Pocklington-Smythes
New Person
Add Family
Add Source
Show Bookmarks…
Quick Access
Edit Labels
Preferences
Print
Edit
Family Assistant
Persons
Families
Sources
Media Browser
Database Maintenance
Search
Views
Virtual Tree
Ancestor Chart
Fan Chart
Descendant Chart
Timeline
Virtual Globe
Family Chart
Statistics
Genogram
Saved Views
Reports
Person Report
Kinship Report
Places
Events
Distinctive Persons
Birthdays
List of Persons
Saved Reports
Publish Web Pages
Hard Disk
MacFamilyTree.com
Mobile Me
CD/DVD
Persons
Person Mr Samuel Pocklington-Smythe
Event Death
World History (21)
World History from 1936 to 2006
Find
General Information
Look Up Coordinates

| Date | Event | Category |
|---|---|---|
| 05/08/1930 – Today | Life of Neil Armstrong | Personalities |
| 06/02/1952 – Today | Queen of the United Kingdom: Elizabeth II | Great Britain |
| 24/02/1955 – Today | Life of Steven 'Steve' Paul Jobs | Personalities |
| 01/10/1982 – 27/10/1998 | Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany: Helmut Kohl | Germany – Chanc… |
| 1992 – 1996 | Afghan Civil War | Wars & Military C… |
| 20/01/1993 – 20/01/2001 | President of the United States of America: Bill Clinton | USA – Presidents |
| 1994 – 1996 | First Chechen War ('War in Chechnya') | Wars & Military C… |
| 1998 – 2003 | Second Congo War ('Great War of Africa') | Wars & Military C… |
| 1998 – 1999 | Kosovo War ('Kosovo Conflict') | Wars & Military C… |
| 15/08/1998 | Introduction of the Apple iMac | Apple Inc. – Corp… |
| 27/10/1998 – 22/11/2005 | Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany: Gerhard Schröder | Germany – Chanc… |
| 01/01/1999 | ECU as an internal accounting unit in the European Community | Europian Union |
| 20/01/2001 – 20/01/2009 | President of the United States of America: George W. Bush | USA – Presidents |
| 11/09/2001 | September 11 attacks ('9/11') | USA |
| 07/10/2001 – Today | Afghanistan War | Wars & Military C… |
| 23/10/2001 | Apple iPod introduced | Apple Inc. – Corp… |
| 01/01/2002 | Introduction of the Euro | Europian Union |

Event Type: Death
Description:
Date: 26/01/2009
Place: Woking
Country: England
Address:
Authority:
Cause: old age

>> BILLING AND INVOICING SOFTWARE

# PandaWare TimeCache 8.0.2

**$70 (£44)** If you have multiple clients and projects, TimeCache can ensure your billing is accurate

### CONTACTS

**Developer:** PandaWare
www.pandaware.com
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602932

### SPECIFICATIONS

**OS:** Mac OS X 10.3

### PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Reflects real-world billing needs
- ⊕ Supports retainers & expenses
- ⊕ Clear, easily usable interface
- ⊖ Might be overkill for some users

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"Performs record-keeping and invoicing tasks well."**

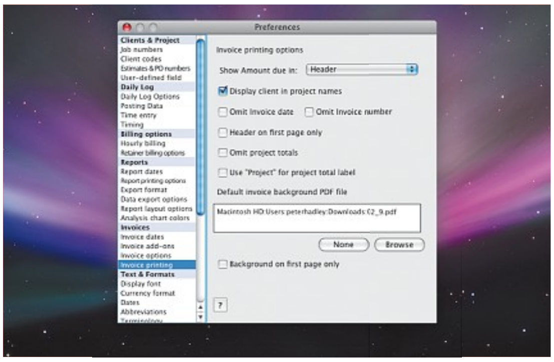
The curiously named *TimeCache* is intended to help freelancers and small businesses track their work and the money they're owed, billing by time or by job. It succeeds well, although it takes patience to set up, and won't be worthwhile for those who have only a few clients and a predictable amount of invoices.

To start, you set up a record for each client and project, assign the projects to clients and set a payment rate for each project. Then you can get to the heart of the application – the **Daily Log**, a timesheet where you note the work you've done, either entering hours manually or turning a timer on and off as you move from job to job. This data can then be exported to invoices or viewed in a comprehensive range of report formats, for example by date, client or project.

The interface is as clear as it can be given the vast number of options available, and there are ample keyboard shortcuts. Plenty of thought has gone into *TimeCache*: it supports retainer payments and charged-on expenses, for example, exchanges data with *iCal* and *Address Book*, gives you more control over invoices, and even lets you track active applications to create an audit trail of your working days. A workgroup version, *TimeCache Manager*, is also available.

If you have lots of clients, and particularly if you bill by the hour, *TimeCache* is well worth the effort.

**Barnaby Page**


Preferences
Clients & Project
Job numbers
Client codes
Estimates & PO numbers
User-defined field
Daily Log
Daily Log Options
Posting Data
Time entry
Timing
Billing options
Hourly billing
Retainer billing options
Reports
Report dates
Report printing options
Export format
Data export options
Report layout options
Analysis chart colors
Invoices
Invoice dates
Invoice add-ons
Invoice options
Invoice printing
Text & Formats
Display font
Currency format
Dates
Abbreviations
Terminology
None
Browse
?

Invoice printing options
Show Amount due in: Header
☑ Display client in project names
☐ Omit invoice date ☐ Omit invoice number
☐ Header on first page only
☐ Omit project totals
☐ Use "Project" for project total label
Default invoice background PDF file
Macintosh HD:Users:peterhadley:Downloads:02_9.pdf
☐ Background on first page only

**Tweak the options to set up records specific to you and your work.**

>> BLUETOOTH MOBILE PHONE UTILITY

# Nova Media Phone Plugins 2.3

**€12 (£10)** Dial and text from your mobile phone, from any application on your Mac…

### CONTACTS

**Developer:** Nova Media
www.novamedia.de
**Latest price on TechRadar**
www.techradar.com/602964

### SPECIFICATIONS

**OS:** OS X 10.5.2 Leopard
**Other:** Bluetooth connectivity, compatible phone

### PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good value for money
- ⊕ No more txt spk
- ⊕ Handy and unobtrusive
- ⊖ Only one Mac at a time

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

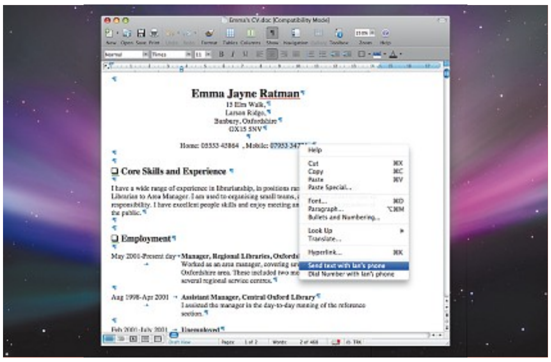
**"@ lst thrs no need 4 txt msgs tht lk lke ths ne mr."**

After pairing your Bluetooth mobile phone with *Phone Plugins*, you can use your Mac to send an SMS or dial out from your handset. Just highlight a phone number offered in any application, right- or ctrl-click to access the contextual menu and pick one of the new options, Send Text or Dial Number. Naturally, the phone number must be an actual character string and not part of a graphic. Thus you could use a number offered in a text document, PDF, email or *Address Book*, but not from a screenshot or photograph. It ignores spaces, so numbers that are split for ease of reading work fine, and if the number in question is recognised from *Address Book*, the contact's name is displayed.

After dialling a landline or mobile number, you can hang up from your Mac, so there's no need to reach for your phone at all. But it's when sending texts that the plug-in comes into its own. You type your message on your Mac, and if you write more than the maximum 160 characters, *Phone Plugins* will split it across several SMSs. And because it's sent from your phone, there's no need to buy credits as you would with *SMS Mac*, say.

While *Phone Plugins* is excellent value for money, our only criticism is that you can't install it on more than one Mac at a time. Two would've been more generous, but apart from that, it's a great little app.

**Ian Osborne**


Emma's CV.doc [Compatibility Mode]
Help
Cut
Copy
Paste
Paste Special…
Font…
Paragraph…
Bullets and Numbering…
Look Up
Translate…
Hyperlink…
Send text with Ian's phone
Dial Number with Ian's phone

Emma Jayne Ratman
15 Elm Walk,
Larson Ridge,
Banbury, Oxfordshire
OX15 5NV

Core Skills and Experience

Employment

Aug 1998-Apr 2001 Assistant Manager, Central Oxford Library

**Send a text to any number contained within an application on your Mac.**

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What next for Apple?
iWork '09 in full
Six instant messengers
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iTunes Masterclass
We test the Genius Bar
Write a novel on your Mac
Six NAS iTunes servers
**On the disc**
Captain FTP 6, Language Alchemist 2, R10Cipher 1.1

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How a NetBook should look
Six web builders tested
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Stargaze with your Mac
Create DJ playlists
Canon EOS 500D and Carbonite reviewed
Six compact DV cameras tested

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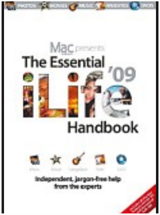

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WORLD OF TECH

# 21 guilty pleasures for geeks

## Things you don't even admit on anonymous forums

It's OK, you're in safe company. We know you didn't really buy that gadget because it could interface seamlessly with the cloud, or because it offers the best range of features for Small to Medium Enterprises, or even because it has the fastest processor this side of a supercomputer. You just like touching its rubbery buttons and the fact that it goes 'ping'.

You're not alone. In fact, here are some other guilty pleasures that we'd like to share with you...

### 1. The iPhone Unlock swipe

You've used your iPhone every day since you bought it, but even all those apps you've downloaded can't compare to the first thing you do with your iPhone every day: gently, caressingly, swiping your finger from left to right across the Unlock button. It's the nearest you ever get to foreplay. And you love it.

### 2. Seeing how juiced up your PC is in Vista / Windows 7

You know you've got a kicking system, and how. Yet every day you dive into the Welcome Centre just to see it all by the numbers. "Windows-capable? Don't make us laugh. Just look at the stats I'm getting," you say (probably to yourself).

### 3. The Macintosh bong

A cross-between a call to action, geek whimsy and the harbinger of PC doom, the Macintosh bong is one of the great geek pleasures. It confirms your status as a man (or woman) who has thunk different, sticking it to the (PC) man with your non-conformist ways. Sometimes you stick it through your kick-ass speakers. Sometimes you simply soak it up on headphones. But the best is when you Zap the PRAM by holding down the Command-Option-P-R keys so your Mac starts up again, and again.... and again. Or you could just watch the Bong video on YouTube.

### 4. Looking at your blog's user stats

OK, so your mum is the only person who looks at your blog and that's only because you set her homepage to it last time your configured her PC, but still. Every day you pile on to Statcounter, Technorati or Google Analytics just to see how well you're doing. What, you're supposed to get them to ignore your own IP address? Where's the pleasure in that?

### 5. Waggling the analogue sticks on your PS3

Whether you're fragging your way through FPS mayhem, careering around a virtual racetrack or lolloping around a platformer, the best bit about it all is the feel of those rubbery pointy things that squirm beneath your thumbs. You especially love it when you waggle so far that the joystick reaches its softly clunking stop. It's even better when you send it yawing back the other way.

### 6. Cranking up your home cinema system for the THX OMMMMMmmmmm

200W per channel amplifier? Check. Seven surround sound speakers and two active subs? Check. The neighbours are out? Stuff it, who cares! That latest Blu-ray blockbuster may shift more CGI pixels than a supercomputer in a Pixar render-farm, but hey – just listen to this. Everyone, come on, OMMMMMmmmmm. It's what war would sound like if Hare Krishna had an army.

### 7. Smashing the ball in Wii Tennis

OK, so you could just wave your arm around lazily while lying semi-comatose on your sofa. But surely it's much (much) better to lift the Wii-mote right above your head, violently jerk your arm down and then listen out for that thundering whack as your virtual racket hits the virtual ball. You're rewarded with the shimmering, heady sight of the ball screaming banshee-like across the net. Bingo, one set-winning ace in the bag and the shame-faced joy of seeing your four-year-old nemesis crumple, crying, to the floor. Guilty pleasure? Oh yes.

### 8. Deliberately trying to confuse your sat nav

You've plotted the fastest route from here to Maplin, only now you're just going to take a teensy detour. "Perform a legal U-turn", TessTess says politely. "Perform a legal U-turn", she says again, tension rising slightly. "I SAID, PERFORM A LEGAL U-TURN! What's the matter, can't you tell your left from right, or something?" TessTess, of course, has failed to spot that you're driving a DeLorean. And this is now 1955...

**There's more! Read the full article at www.techradar.com/565083**

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Albums
Empire Ultimate
England Made Me
Essential Christmas
Essential Collection: Lo
An Evening Wasted Wit
Everybody Else Is Doin

Come on, admit it: you love swiping your iPhone screen

Zoom

# Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK's MUGs

**[1] Aberdeen MUG**
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
**www.abdnmug.co.uk**

**[2] Bristol & Bath MUG**
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
**www.bbmug.co.uk**

**[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG**
Reading area
**i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk**

**[4] Blackburn MUG**
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
**www.bmug.co.uk**

**[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG**
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
**www.bfmuguk.org**

**[6] ClubMac Ireland**
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
**www.clubmac.ie**

**[7] Cork University College**
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
**www.ucc.ie/mug**

**[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts**
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@
steel.clara.net
**home.clara.net/steel/**
**cme_home.htm**

**[9] Deaf Mac Users**
Website group for the
hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
**http://tech.groups.yahoo.**
**com/group/deaf-macs/**

**[10] Durham University MUG**
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
**www.dur.ac.uk/durmac**

**[11] Edinburgh MUG**
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
**www.edmug.org.uk**

**[12] Exeter MUG**
Exeter
examug@mac.com
**www.examug.org.uk**

**[13] FAMUS (Fife)**
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
**www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus**

**[14] Glasgow MUG**
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
**www.glasmug.com**

**[15] Isle of Wight MUG**
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
**www.iowaug.org.uk**

**[16] Kent & East Sussex MUG**
Kent
**www.kesmug.org**

**[17] London MUG**
London
secretary@lmug.org
**www.lmug.org.uk**

**[18] MACUS (Manchester)**
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

**[19] Manchester MUG**
Manchester
simon.richards@
manmug.co.uk

**[20] Midlands MUG**
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
**www.mmug.org.uk**

**[21] Naseby Mac User Group**
Naseby
stuart.cato@mac.com

**[22] Northern Ireland MUG**
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

**[23] North West Mac Group**
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
**www.nwmug.co.uk**

**[24] Norwich MUG**
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup
@mac.com

**[25] Oban MUG**
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

**[26] OxMUG**
Oxford
**www.oxmug.org**

**[27] Potteries MUG**
potmug@mac.com
**www.potmug.com**

**[28] Severn MUG**
South West
admin@s-mug.com
**http://s-mug.com**

## MUG OF THE MONTH / South Wales MUG

The South Wales Mac User Group meets on the first Saturday of every month at the Fox and Hounds in Cardiff. Full details of the next meeting and a map of the location are at **www.swmug.org.uk**. There's free WiFi on the site and food available, plus cask-conditioned ale to help its meetings go with a swing! If you're a Mac user in Cardiff then feel free to drop in!

**[29] Southampton Uni**
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

**[30] South Essex MUG**
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
**www.seal-apple.co.uk**

**[31] South Wales MUG**
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
**www.swmug.org.uk**

**[32] Sneem MUG**
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
**www.smug.ie**

**[33] Stroud Mac User Group**
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

**[34] Suffolk Mac User Group**
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
**suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk**

**[35] Surrey MUG**
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

**[36] Swindon MUG**
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@
googlemail.com
**http://swindonmacuser**
**group.googlepages.com**

**[37] Three Counties MUG**
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
**www.3cmug.co.uk**

**[38] Wessex MUGs**
Fareham, Dorchester,
Bournmouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

**[39] Witney MUG**
West Oxfordshire
witneymacusergroup@gmail.com
**www.witneymacusergroup.**
**webs.com**

**[40] Yorkshire MUG**
Doncaster & other towns
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
**www.ymug.org**

**ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?**
**Email in and let us know!**
macformat@futurenet.com

### NEW STARTER

### START YOUR OWN MUG

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

# Shareware

**>> MEET YOUR MAC EXPERT**

Shareware obsessive, Craig Grannell has more small apps on his Mac than Steve Jobs has black polo necks.

**● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dock killer

If you give the Dock evils whenever it pops up, due to preferring *DragThing* or *A-Dock*, an add-on called *Dock Gone* (**www.old-jewel.com/dockgone**) might pique your interest. It's a bad idea to nuke the Dock entirely, since it also controls *Exposé* and *Spaces*; *Dock Gone* therefore makes the Dock tiny and tries to make it avoid the mouse cursor. However, we're not convinced it's worth $15, despite its great icon.

### Out of this world

*Spaces* in Mac OS X, and Virtual Desktops in general, can confuse new users. *Hyperspaces* (**www.hyperspacesapp.com**) aims to deal with this by enabling you to label spaces and set a unique background and hot-key for each. The beta is shaping up nicely, and could become a must-have add-on for *Spaces* fans.

**>> MAIL ORGANISER**

# Mail Act-On 2.0.5

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

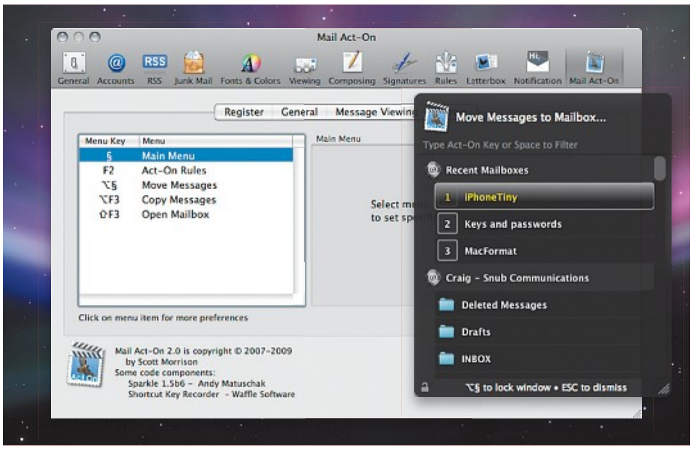
**$25 (£16)** Mail organisation and filing solution right at your fingertips

One of the Mac's best features is its built-in search tool, Spotlight, and since Spotlight works system-wide, it's embedded into many applications, including *Mail*. This means conscientiously filing away emails into myriad folders is mostly a waste of time – it's easier to do a quick Spotlight search or use Smart Mailboxes to find what you need.

That said, most *Mail* users still do a certain amount of manual filing, dragging messages into mailboxes relating to clients or personal issues. If you have to deal with a lot of email, such management rapidly becomes tiresome, and that's where *Mail Act-On* comes in.

> *"If you're a power user drowning in email, Mail Act-On will save you time and money"*

It's worth noting that *Mail Act-On* is aimed squarely at the more keyboard-obsessed users among you, since it's based on single-key triggers. One such trigger brings up the HUD-style window, which provides you with the options to move, copy or apply rules to the current selection, or to open a folder. On choosing an action that requires a folder selection, *Mail Act-On* offers single-key triggers for recent folders (three folders by default, but that setting can be changed), or you can hit the [Spacebar] on your keyboard and type to filter your folder list Spotlight-style until the one you require is highlighted.



| Menu Key | Menu |
|---|---|
| § | Main Menu |
| F2 | Act-On Rules |
| ⌥§ | Move Messages |
| ⌥F3 | Copy Messages |
| ⇧F3 | Open Mailbox |

Click on menu item for more preferences

Mail Act-On 2.0 is copyright © 2007-2009
by Scott Morrison
Some code components:
Sparkle 1.5b6 – Andy Matuschak
Shortcut Key Recorder – Waffle Software

**Mail Act-On enables you to define single-key shortcuts to activate user-defined rules.**

This alone would make *Mail Act-On* worthy of consideration, but it also beefs up *Mail*'s rules. You can define outbox rules to fling sent emails to specific folders, along with setting flags and background colours. Additionally, you can define keystroke rules, which can be triggered via ctrl and your defined key. In other words, ctrl plus a single letter is all you need to set the background colour of a selection and send the entire lot to a user-defined folder.

Clearly, *Mail Act-On* isn't going to be suitable for everyone. If you're glued to your mouse, or happy dragging the odd email to a permanent home, give this application a miss. But if you're a power user drowning in email, *Mail Act-On* should save you time and money, easily justifying its very reasonable price.

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Scott Morrison
**Vendor:** www.indev.ca

## VERDICT

★★★★★

**"The perfect add-on for keyboard-oriented Mail users drowning in email."**

**>> ON THE DISC**

You can find all these program's on the disc.

**>>DOWNLOAD ASSISTANT**

# Musicbox 1.0.3

## $15 (£10) Download audio from the web

As we're huge fans of *Web Snapper*, Tasty Apps' web-page grabber, we approached audio grabber *Musicbox* with high expectations. Superficially, the app works similarly to its cousin – drop URLs on it to queue downloads, define an output format and save. Sadly, grabbing online audio is hit-and-miss, making using *Musicbox* a frustrating experience. The app's mini-browser tries to compensate for problems by using a play button as a capture trigger, but success still feels too random, and MP3 output also seems overly compressed, regardless of settings.

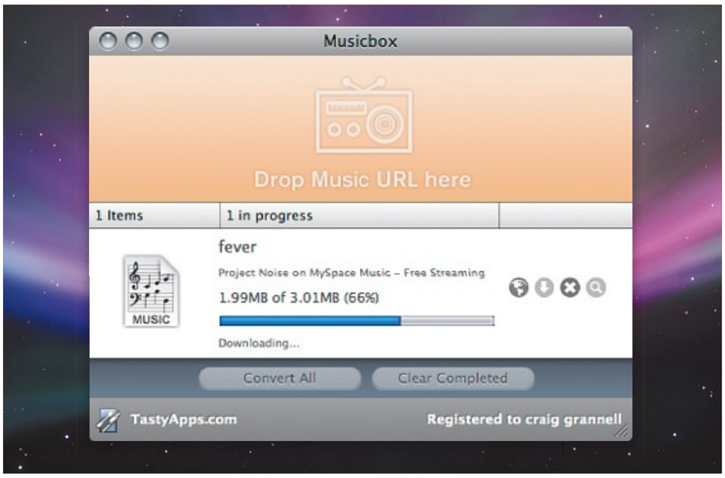
### CONTACTS

**Developer:** Tasty Apps
**Vendor:** www.tastyapps.com

### VERDICT

★★½☆☆

**"Great idea, but audio downloading could be better."**


Musicbox
Drop Music URL here
1 Items
1 in progress
fever
Project Noise on MySpace Music – Free Streaming
1.99MB of 3.01MB (66%)
MUSIC
Downloading...
Convert All
Clear Completed
TastyApps.com
Registered to craig grannell

Musicbox enables you to download audio from the internet – well, sometimes.

**>>MEDIA ORGANISER**

# iMedia Browser 1.2

## £FREE Access all your media from one place

We reviewed this app in issue 190 and were not complimentary, so thought we'd give this update a go. *iMedia Browser* is an interface for your photos, music, movies and links, enabling system-wide access and previews. First access to each section is slow, but snappy otherwise. Links are annoyingly restricted to WebKit browsers, and the main window doesn't behave like a standard app (it's either 'Help-style float over everything' or 'vanish when the app isn't focused').

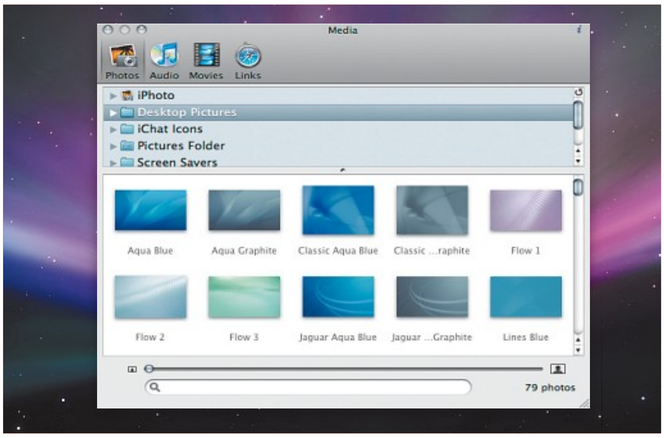
### CONTACTS

**Developer:** Karelia
**Vendor:** www.karelia.com

### VERDICT

★★★½☆

**"Flawed but much improved. It's free and worth a look."**


Media
Photos
Audio
Movies
Links
iPhoto
Desktop Pictures
iChat Icons
Pictures Folder
Screen Savers
Aqua Blue
Aqua Graphite
Classic Aqua Blue
Classic ...raphite
Flow 1
Flow 2
Flow 3
Jaguar Aqua Blue
Jaguar ...Graphite
Lines Blue
79 photos

iMedia Browser lets you access your media, but doesn't support many web browsers.

**>>FINDER UTILITY**

# Clyppan 1.0

## £FREE Extend OS X's clipboard functionality

*Clyppan* is the latest clipboard history app for OS X, dealing with the limitations of the Mac's clipboard. Efficiency is *Clyppan*'s watchword, with a simple three-button interface in its optional window, and keyboard shortcuts for important actions. *Clyppan* has some good ideas, including a Quick Look-style preview and 'rapid paste', which copies to the clipboard the next item in *Clyppan*'s list. However, *Clyppan* is clunky in use, and pales beside the likes of *PTHPasteboard*. ●

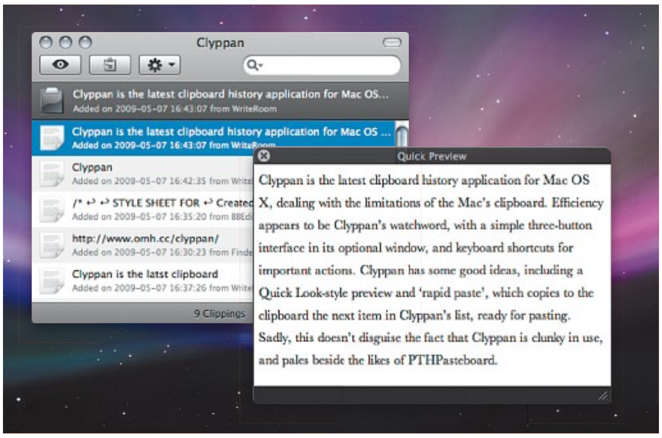
### CONTACTS

**Developer:**
Ole Morten Halvorsen
**Vendor:** www.omh.cc

### VERDICT

★★½☆☆

**"Clyppan isn't bad, but offers nothing over similar apps."**


Clyppan
Clyppan is the latest clipboard history application for Mac OS...
Added on 2009-05-07 16:43:07 from WriteRoom
Clyppan is the latest clipboard history application for Mac OS ...
Added on 2009-05-07 16:43:07 from WriteRoom
Clyppan
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/* ↩ ↩ STYLE SHEET FOR ↩ Created
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http://www.omh.cc/clyppan/
Added on 2009-05-07 16:30:23 from Finde
Clyppan is the latst clipboard
Added on 2009-05-07 16:37:26 from Write
9 Clippings
Quick Preview

Clyppan is the latest clipboard history application for Mac OS X, dealing with the limitations of the Mac's clipboard. Efficiency appears to be Clyppan's watchword, with a simple three-button interface in its optional window, and keyboard shortcuts for important actions. Clyppan has some good ideas, including a Quick Look-style preview and 'rapid paste', which copies to the clipboard the next item in Clyppan's list, ready for pasting. Sadly, this doesn't disguise the fact that Clyppan is clunky in use, and pales beside the likes of PTHPasteboard.

Clyppan beefs up the Mac's clipboard, but doesn't enhance your productivity enough.

# iPhone

**>> MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT**
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### App store rejection woes

The process by which Apple accepts or rejects apps from third parties for the App Store remains controversial. The *Eucalyptus* ebook reader has been rejected as Apple claimed it contravened the inappropriate sexual content clause; an example given was the *Kama Sutra,* which it was possible to download from Project Gutenberg using the app. The rejection has since been rescinded.

### Heavy O2 advertising

According to marketing research company comScore, O2 ran more than a billion online adverts in April 2009, many of which were for the iPhone. This generated 35.4 million unique users over the month – 20% more than T-Mobile. Royal Mail, Orange, Virgin Media, Sky, BT and Microsoft also made it to the list of the top ten most prolific UK advertisers.

**>> PERSONAL DATABASE**

# Bento

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

**£2.99** Is that a personal database in your pocket?

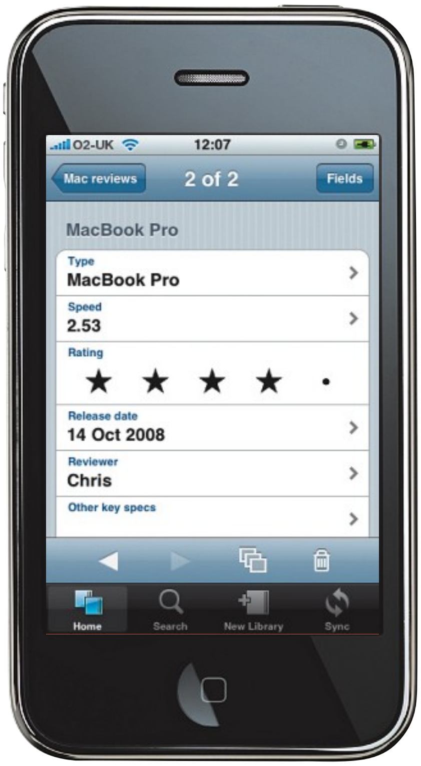
This app does the impossible: it makes databases cool. When the Mac version of FileMaker's personal database launched in 2008, it felt like the missing module to Apple's *iWork* suite. Slick, pretty and easy to use, it came prepopulated with a bunch of useful, real-world templates.

Now there's an iPhone version, and it's just as lovely. It too has ready-built templates – a recipe book, event planning, expenses and more – though you can build your own. There's support for lots of field types – multiple choice, ratings, dates, times, durations and more, though some advanced data types, most notably calculations, require *Bento for Mac* as well; (see http://tinyurl.com/pl3vpb). It all feels very iPhone-like. You can choose which fields are visible and sortable in the list view, and adding records is a cinch.

> *"It has ready-built templates – a recipe book, event planning, expenses and more"*

Creating databases from scratch on the iPhone can be fiddly, and it did crash on us a few times. But here's the magic: it syncs beautifully over WiFi with the £25 Mac version, so you can set up full, rich databases on the Mac and then simply sync them to your iPhone or iPod touch. (We could have used a little more hand-holding to lay out the form on the Mac after syncing an iPhone-created database, mind; in fact in general, you may struggle with a lack of help.)

Still, this is a great little database with room to grow. There's no interaction with *iCal* at the moment, though it reads your address book live – and the single-user *Bento* model means even small workgroups need to look to the full, scary *FileMaker* range. But, its ease of use and ability to sync wirelessly with *Bento* for Mac mark it out as little short of a triumph.



Type: MacBook Pro
Speed: 2.53
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ •
Release date: 14 Oct 2008
Reviewer: Chris
Other key specs

## CONTACTS

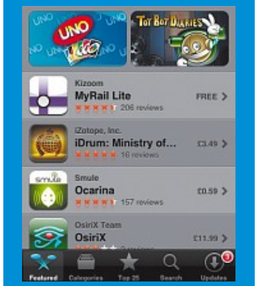
**Developer:** FileMaker
www.filemaker.co.uk
**Available from the App Store**

## VERDICT

★★★★☆

**"A superb 1.0; it's not perfect yet, but it's very good, and a steal at £2.99."**

## >> DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

**>>TWITTER CLIENT**

# Twitterrific Premium

**£2.39** A massive, feature-rich update – but is it too much?

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** The Iconfactory
www.iconfacory.com
**Available from the App Store**

## VERDICT

★★★★½

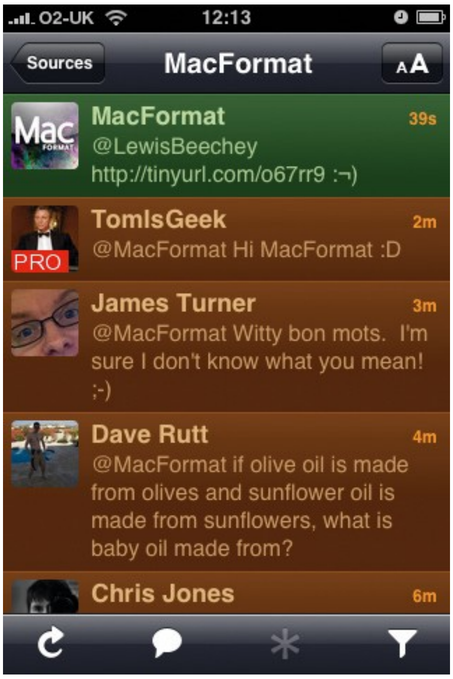
**"An app that repays time spent exploring it. A firm favourite."**

We were thrilled when the cuddly folk at The Iconfactory brought us *Twitterrific* – the first proper iPhone Twitter client. But, recently, its simplicity in the face of burgeoning competition was beginning to hurt it. However, *Twitterrific 2.0* has now arrived, and it has a radically beefed-up features list.

At first glance, it looks less 'rich' and more 'complicated'. We recommend watching the 'tweetorials' at **http://twitterrific.com/iphone/tweetorials**. And indeed some of the really cool and really basic stuff – conversation threading and even just profile lookups – need to be configured through the settings.

The interface is lovely, though, and the *Twitterrific* model – your tweets, mentions, messages all in the same view, colour-coded – feels completely natural. If you wish, you can filter the list temporarily only to show favourites, mentions and more. And there's now finally the support for multiple accounts, trends and searches.

After initial confusion, we're converts. There's little it can't do, although reposting between accounts is tricky. It has lots of little touches such as the ability to collapse the keyboard while composing a tweet to see the list, and even tap on hashtags and usernames to add them to your tweet. A complete joy to use.



MacFormat 39s
@LewisBeechey http://tinyurl.com/o67rr9 :¬)

TomIsGeek 2m
@MacFormat Hi MacFormat :D

James Turner 3m
@MacFormat Witty bon mots. I'm sure I don't know what you mean! ;-)

Dave Rutt 4m
@MacFormat if olive oil is made from olives and sunflower oil is made from sunflowers, what is baby oil made from?

Chris Jones 6m

**>>COMMUNICATIONS APP**

# Skype

**£FREE** Free calls that you'll end up paying for in other ways…

## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Skype Ltd
www.skype.com
**Available from the App Store**

## VERDICT

★★½☆☆

**"Hampered by some fundamental iPhone restrictions."**

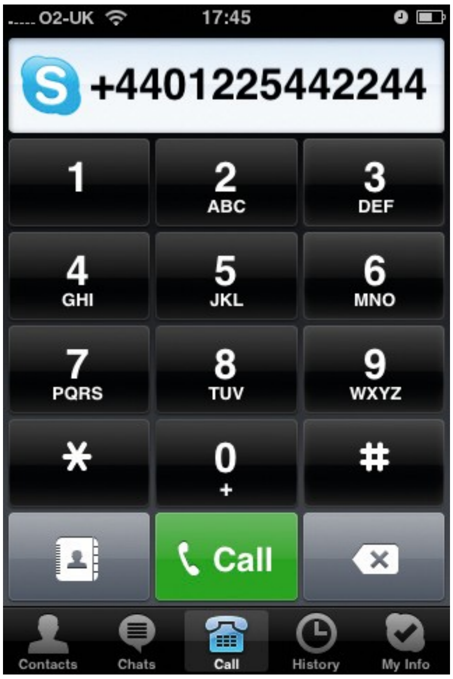
On the Mac and PC, *Skype* lets you make free voice and video calls to other *Skype* users, and to make calls to regular landlines for mere pence, which is especially useful for international calls.

The iPhone version, however, suffers from some fundamental flaws. The biggest is that it only works for calls when you're in range of a WiFi hotspot; you may not make VoIP calls over the cellular mobile network. *Skype*'s instant messaging service system works fine.

Next, is that – unsurprisingly, given the iPhone's lack of a front-mounted camera – there's no support for video chatting, one of *Skype*'s best features.

More systemically problematic, though, is that the iPhone doesn't allow apps to run in the background – and the long-promised notification server is still not yet launched. And so, in order to appear online and receive calls in *Skype*, it needs to be open on your iPhone. Roll on iPhone OS 3.0. There are small niggles too; unless you store your contact numbers in international format, you can't pass them properly to *Skype*. 01225 442244 converts to +4401225 442244; that zero will cause the call to fail, and you can't edit numbers on the fly.

Still, all those caveats aside, it's a decent app. Add a mic to an iPod touch and it will let you make calls over WiFi. ●



+4401225442244

# Games

**» MEET YOUR GAMES GURU**
Andy Dyer has written about games since the days of the early consoles. He now gets his gaming fix on his iMac and iPod touch.

● ACTION & ARCADE ● PUZZLE & STRATEGY ● ONLINE ADVENTURE ● iPHONE GAMES

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rock this way...

Aerosmith star in a new iteration of the classic axe-based rhythm action game, *Guitar Hero*. Taking on the roles of the band, you can chart their rise to success with levels played at the group's key venues and events. Aerosmith is surely the band the franchise has been waiting for? It's available now. Check out **www.aspyr.com**

### Off the beaten track

*The Path* promises a different style of gameplay to other horror-based adventure games. There are no puzzles or monsters, but you guide the characters through an immersive experience. And because they possess some AI, you never know what's going to happen next. Look out for a review next issue.

**» PEOPLE SIM**

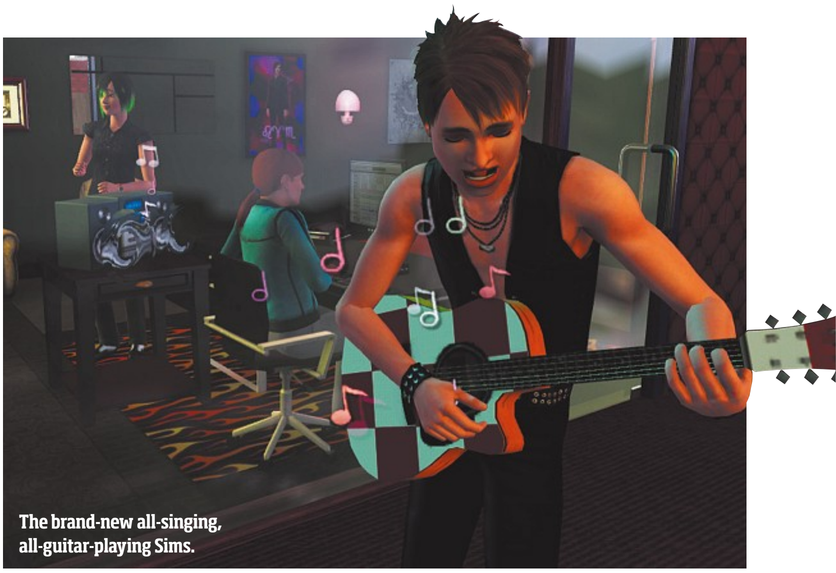
# The Sims 3

**£40** The Sims franchise is breaking loose. Catch up with this latest iteration

Given the ubiquity of EA's *The Sims* franchise (almost fortnightly releases of expansion packs and 98 million units sold worldwide thus far), it comes as a surprise that everyone's favourite people-sim has only been around since the turn of the millennium.

Still, as Gordon Brown's unbearably arrogant cabinet would testify, a year is a long time in politics, and likewise nine years is a very long time in Simland. And as is the case with British politics, it is with *The Sims* franchise… time for a change.

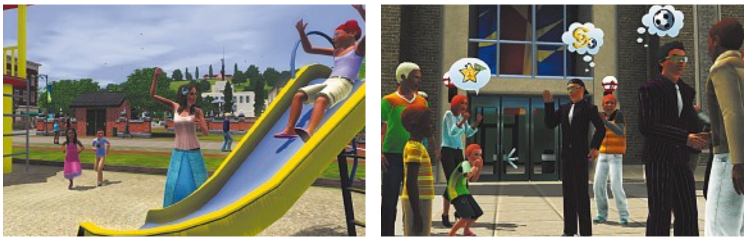
*The Sims 3* promises much; both to the existing fan and unbelievers alike.



**The brand-new all-singing, all-guitar-playing Sims.**

> *"Another welcome advance comes in the form of the much-improved Create-a-Sim feature"*

Fans can expect an unprecedentedly open world in which a player's chosen sims explore their neighbourhood at will, interacting with all and sundry, rather than simply mooching around their houses messing about with microwaves and wardrobes. A simplification, perhaps, but you get the point. Sceptics can look forward to a new goals-and-rewards system that will lend structure to an experience that previously seemed nebulous to the point of, well, pointlessness.



**Your character can now possess a distinct personality, as demonstrated by Kooky and Cocky, above.**

Another welcome advance comes in the form of the much-improved Create-a-Sim feature. Perhaps taking a lead from Nintendo's Mii creation tools, *Sims 3* players will now be able to create sims of such physical complexity that their on-screen avatars will look just like them. Add to that a choice of five distinct personality traits and you have a system that enables the construction of extremely realistic characters, physically as well as behaviourally.

Will the *Sims 3* be all things to all men (and women, this being a franchise whose cross-gender appeal is matched only by that of Lady GaGa and possibly, on a more intellectual level, Stephen Fry)? We wouldn't bet against it. ●

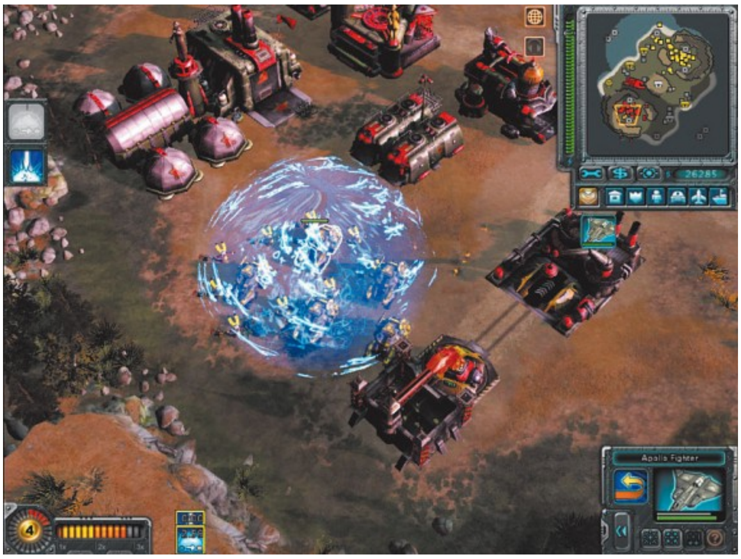
**>> REAL-TIME STRATEGY**

# Command & Conquer Red Alert 3

**$40 (£26)** It's been some years since the last Red Alert. Is it still an all-conquering RTS?

The return of the *Command & Conquer Red Alert* series is most welcome. Where some strategy games can be a little too worthy and bloated for their own good, *Red Alert 3* plays for laughs and it's an excellent example of when big-studio, big-budget games turn out to be money well spent.

The premise of the game is suitably ludicrous. The Soviet leadership, facing defeat by the forces of the west, decide to try their luck with an experimental time machine they've been working on. The plan is to assassinate Albert Einstein who is believed to be responsible for giving the US its military advantage. On travelling back to the present, the Soviet commander is horrified to find his nation now facing an even greater threat, the technologically advanced Empire of The Rising Sun.



The simple controls coupled with the fast gameplay makes for a brilliant gaming experience.

## Cinematic gameplay

Cut scenes, mission intros and in-game updates are delivered through live-action video. And the cast EA has assembled for this cinematic approach is impressive – George Takei (Sulu from *Star Trek*) is joined by Tim Curry, J. K. Simmons and Jonathan Pryce among others. It's basically a big bowl of camp nonsense topped with a slice of wonderfully performed cheese.

> *"As the story progresses things get madder, bigger and more impressive, from the use of dolphins to the giant robot unit King Oni..."*

The gameplay itself is every bit as bright and brash as the cinematic sequences. The real-time strategy nature of the gameplay necessitates fast gameplay and a slick control system to accommodate it. The game can, to all intents and purposes, be played on a three-button mouse with hardly any need for the keyboard. Navigating the map, drag-selecting multiple units, moving units, accessing weapons and abilities, even building bases, is all handled with a few simple mouse manipulations.

This simplicity belies how deeply satisfying the gameplay is though, which is in large part thanks to the range of units you can take control of, and the way in which the campaigns and missions are constructed.

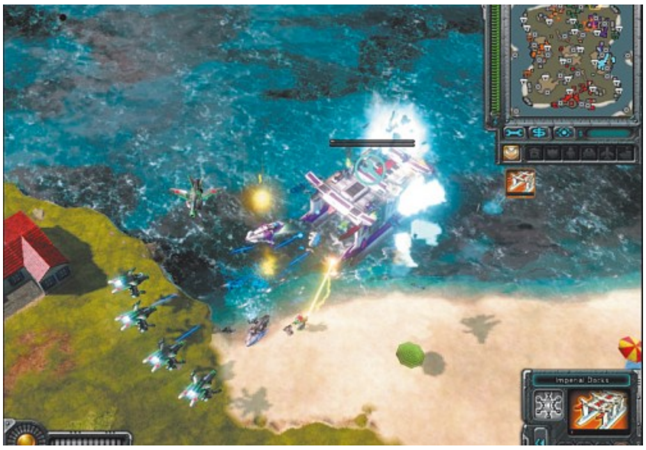
This being an alternate timeline, the units are not what you'd expect on a regular battlefield. Across the game's three factions (Soviet, Allies, Rising Sun) you'll encounter versatile super-operatives who can fight their ground impressively but can also call in airstrikes and other special attacks. There are dual-purpose units that can take to the water before transforming into beetle-like vehicles to crawl back onto land. Even basic things like troop carriers have a twist, in this case, they are able to fire troops high into the air so they can land by parachute on a distant shoreline. And, of course, as the story progresses so things get madder, bigger and more impressive from the Allies use of dolphins, to Soviet airships and the Empire's fantastic giant robot unit King Oni.

## Fast and furious

If all this excitement is all too much, you can share your joy by playing the game online, where there's the opportunity to play the campaign missions co-operatively.

The only reservations are some graphical misgivings and a fatal crash, which meant the game had to be downloaded again (it has been fine since, though). Other than that, *Red Alert 3* is fast-moving, satisfying and rib-tickling all at the same time. It's quite an achievement. ●

The relaxing beach holiday turned into something altogether more calamitous.



## CONTACTS

**Developer:** Electronic Arts
www.ea.com
**Vendor:** GameTree Online
www.gametreeonline.com

## REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core Duo Processor, 1.024MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.6 Leopard or later, ATI X1600 / NVIDIA 7300 GT, 10GB hard drive space

## PROS & CONS

- + Fun story
- + Camp performances
- + Fast and fun
- + Interesting units
- + Co-operative play
- − Graphical glitches

## VERDICT

★★★★★

**"A strategy game that manages to be enjoyable, but fast-moving and furious at the same time."**

>>PLATFORMER

# Qwak

**£13** The classic 80s platform game that proves good design never goes out of fashion

### CONTACTS

**Developer:** Jamie Woodhouse
www.qwak.co.uk
**Vendor:** Qwak
www.qwak.co.uk

### REQUIREMENTS

5.5MB hard drive space

### PROS & CONS

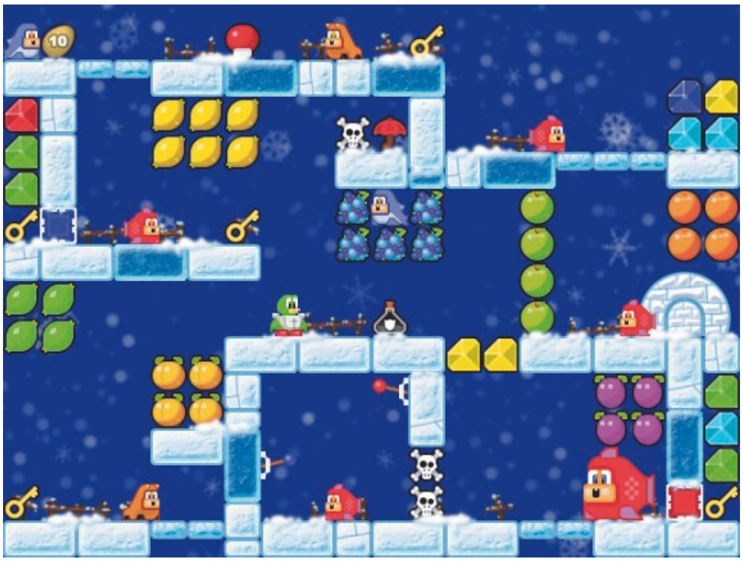
- ⊕ Proper old school gameplay
- ⊕ Expertly designed levels
- ⊕ 80-plus levels
- ⊕ Two-player option
- ⊕ Online high scores
- ⊖ It's all about the points

### VERDICT

★★★★★

**"It might be old fashioned but Qwak's platform action is totally addictive. And it's hard as nails."**

The great thing about independent programmers is that they do what they do for the sheer love of it. Not that their games are guaranteed to be any good – often they're atrociously bad. Occasionally, they may well go on to see the financial possibilities of their toils and sign their wares up to a major publishing label. But, initially, bedroom programmers are, in the best possible way, in it for themselves. They simply want to make fun games that other people will find fun to play. Their creations are, in the absolute truest sense, labours of love.



The 80s revival is most welcome here, as are the 80-or-so levels of this highly addictive game.

## Arcade fun

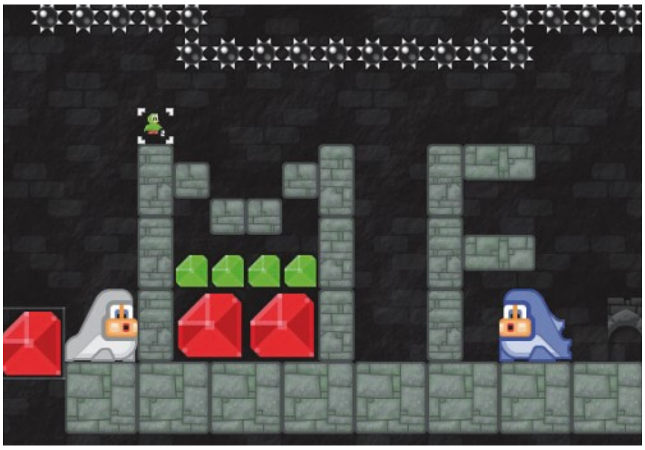
Jamie Woodhouse's *Qwak* is certainly a labour of love, given that he's been developing it, adjusting it, honing it, and polishing it till it shines for nearly 20 years. We know not whether he's made a decent living out of it, frankly it would be indecent of us to ask. But what we do know is that this latest Mac version of his 2D arcade-style platformer is the culmination of countless hours of devotion stretching back to its initial release on Acorn computers in 1989, through much-lauded Amiga iterations in the 90s, and a none-too-shabby attempt that appeared on Nintendo's Game Boy Advance a few years back.

Why, you may ask, does he insist on revisiting the same game time and again? The answer must surely be because it's brilliant. We came to this game full of nostalgic joy, but fully expecting that our rose-tinted spectacles would surely soon be fogged by tears of disappointment. How wrong we were.

What looks like a game that was acceptable in the eighties, but somewhat embarrassing in the noughties, turns out to be truly addictive. It involves getting a duck from the start point to one of the exits. In order to do so, you first need to collect all the available keys in order to unlock the exit. The problem is that there are many, many hazards blocking your path. These can take the form of homing enemies that chase you, regular bad guys whose regimented movements prevent progress, spiky balls that damage you and skulls that kill you outright. Many enemies can be destroyed with your egg-launching weapon, but ammo is in short supply. In addition, your route to the keys (and the exit) is impeded by blocks, gates, collapsing platforms, and the like, which can only be surmounted by flicking switches, collecting keys, and navigating your way around a level in a specific way.

This being an old-school game, you only have three lives and three continues with which to complete the 80-odd levels provided. What's more, unlike modern games that hold your hand through difficult segments, the learning curve here is steep. Get past the first ten or 15 levels and you'll find yourself in a world of pain.

> *"What looks like a game that was acceptable in the eighties, but embarrassing in the noughties, turns out to be truly addictive"*



No matter what challenges lie ahead there is always a way to get what you want.

## Gem collecting

Getting to the exit is just one facet of the gameplay. Through the online scoreboards the game demands that you replay levels in order to collect every gem available and better the scores of players the world over.

It's a frustrating game, certainly. But if you take the time to familiarise yourself with *Qwak*'s nuances, we can guarantee that you'll be hopelessly addicted to it. ●

>>iPOD/iPHONE: ACTION

# Car Jack Streets

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

## £2.99 The game where crime does pay

This game is, to all intents and purposes, a hark back to the original *Grand Theft Auto* – no great surprise considering that TAG Games' Paul Farley was part of the original GTA team.

There are no fancy visuals, and you view the city top down and scroll around to follow your character, Randall Meyers.

Randall must run around the city, nicking cars and performing tasks in order to raise cash for the local crime boss.

The game runs in real time and you have an actual week in which to rack up each $50k payment. One negative point is that the steering controls can be a bit fiddly, but this is still a classy bit of crime-foolery. ●

**CONTACTS**

**Developer:** TAG Games
Available from the App Store

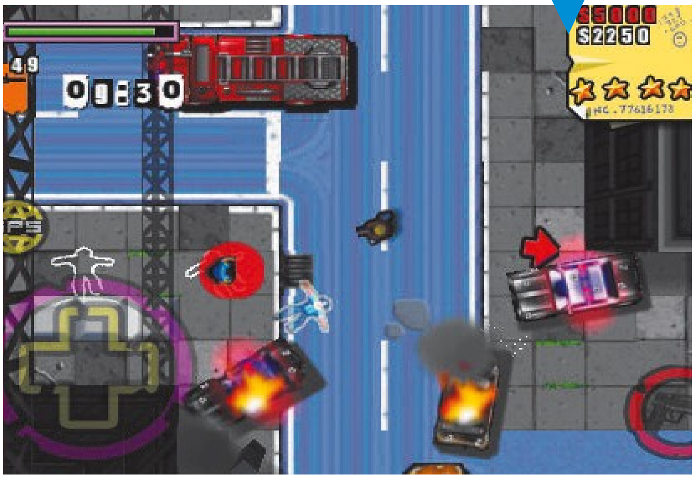
**VERDICT**

★★★★★

**"Even the awkward controls can't ruin what is basically GTA."**

**>>iPHONE & iPOD TOUCH**

You can download these games from the App Store.



**Make sure not to play nicely as you navigate your way across the city.**

>>iPOD/iPHONE: SPORTS

# Soccer Manager

## £2.99 Take your team to the top of the league

For a quick fix of footy management-lite, which you can pick up and play whenever you fancy, *Soccer Manager* ticks most of the boxes.

It's a tidily designed game and transfers, squad management, strategy and training options are all dealt with. However, there are no graphical representations of matches, and the text-based commentary is, at best, perfunctory.

Still, this game provides a solid framework for you to explore your management urges. ●

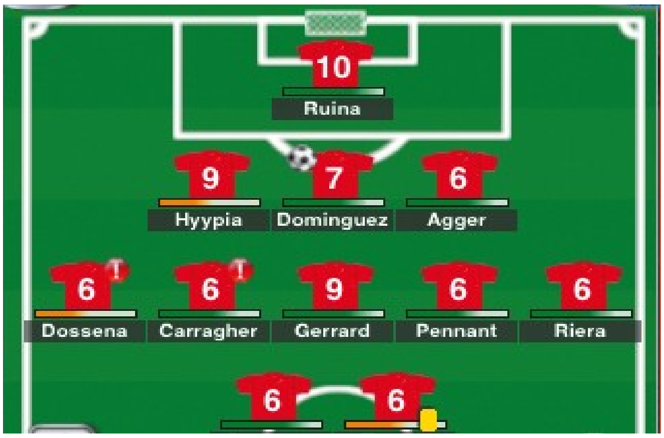
**CONTACTS**

**Developer:** Fizz Software
Available from the App Store

**VERDICT**

★★★½☆

**"A tightly designed casual footy management sim."**



**Think you can do it better? Find out with Soccer Manager...**

>>iPOD/iPHONE: PLATFORM GAME

# Sonic The Hedgehog

## £3.49 Sonic speeds forward onto the iPhone

The spiky speedster has finally arrived on the iPhone. This note-perfect recreation of the original will delight any Sega fan or younger gamer exploring the origins of platform gaming.

The controls are responsive, and, visually, it's a treat. The fast-paced gameplay also remains as enjoyable as ever.

The only downside is the lack of a save facility. If you lose your lives you have to go back to the beginning. It's harsh, but to be fair, that's true retro-gaming for you. ●

**CONTACTS**

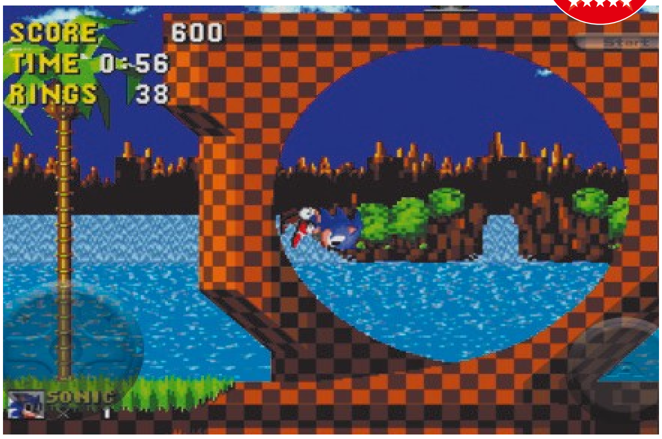
**Developer:** Sega
Available from the App Store

**VERDICT**

★★★★★

**"The pixel-perfect return of everyone's favourite hedgehog."**

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★



**Go back to the good old days with a truly vintage version of Sonic.**

sect A
Sect B
Sect C
2008-09 sales
09 projections

Let your figures blossom with a spreadsheet application.

Illustration by a.K.a.

>> SPREADSHEET PROGRAMS

# Data control

**Jack Weber** reads between the lines and looks at six spreadsheet programs

Spreadsheet programs are responsible for many of us using Macs. In the late 1970s, lots of people bought an Apple II because it ran *VisiCalc*, the first ever Desktop spreadsheet. *VisiCalc* was a sensation, which made Apple prosper as a result.

It's not just Apple that's moved on since. Today's spreadsheets are no longer confined to bookkeeping and financial planning. In fact, they're some of the most versatile applications, with plenty to offer in the home and at school, as well as in business. From creating forms to drawing diagrams, from tracking sports results to solving equations, there isn't much that a spreadsheet can't help with. Especially as they work well with other applications.

In this test we'll be comparing software such as Microsoft *Excel* and *OpenOffice.org* against simpler offerings like *Mariner Calc*, *Tables* and *Numbers* (part of *iLife '09*). For something different, we'll include *Google Docs* spreadsheet, an online application that allows you to access and share your data via a web browser on any computer.

All of these applications are capable of getting down to some serious work, but they're also relevant to novices and domestic users. That's what we'll be concentrating on – seeing what they can do for you and how easy they are to use. Cost certainly doesn't need to be an issue as the prices here range from free to entirely reasonable.

> *"From tracking sports results to solving equations, there isn't much that a spreadsheet can't help with"*

**>> DID YOU KNOW?**

If you have a number of similar sheets – for example, bank accounts for different years – it's often easiest to keep them all within a single file by using tabbed worksheets. All the applications tested here provide this feature.

## On test this issue

**Apple Numbers '09** £69 part of iLife '09

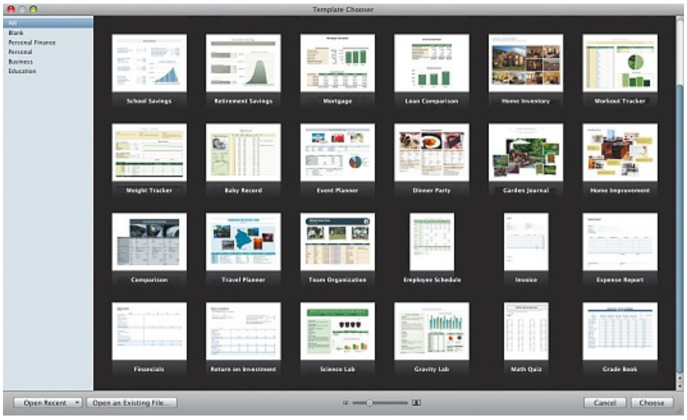
**Google Docs** £FREE

**Mariner Calc 5.6.0** $50 (£31)

**Microsoft Excel 2008** £117 part of Office 2008

**Sun OpenOffice.org 3** £FREE

**Tables 1.5.3** £34


Template Chooser
All
Blank
Personal Finance
Personal
Business
Education
School Savings
Retirement Savings
Mortgage
Loan Comparison
Home Inventory
Workout Tracker
Weight Tracker
Baby Record
Event Planner
Dinner Party
Garden Journal
Home Improvement
Comparison
Travel Planner
Team Organization
Employee Schedule
Invoice
Expense Report
Financials
Return on Investment
Science Lab
Gravity Lab
Math Quiz
Grade Book
Open Recent
Open an Existing File...
Cancel
Choose

**Apple Numbers offers a choice of 29 templates, all of which show off smart designs.**

## >> TEST ONE

# Templates

Who has the best templates to get you started?

Templates rarely work as complete ready-made solutions, but they're a great shortcut and inspiration when creating your own. Sadly, *Tables* doesn't provide any templates at all, and *Mariner Calc* is barely better, with just one uninspiring sample file. *OpenOffice.org* and *Google Docs* have websites where you can select from a wide range of mostly user-submitted templates to download. Both sites contain many useful and attractive offerings, though you'll have to wade through a lot to find them. Inevitably, though, many are aimed at US users.

Limited localisation is also a problem for *Excel* and *Numbers*, though the overall quality is high. As you might expect, *Excel*'s 53 templates are more geared to practical needs, while the 29 bundled with *Numbers* lean towards lifestyle uses. It will be of no surprise that *Numbers* majors on style and looks, while *Excel* focuses on the calculations.

## >> TEST RESULTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Apple Numbers '09** | ★★★★★ |
| **Google Docs** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Mariner Calc 5.6.0** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Microsoft Excel 2008** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sun OpenOffice.org 3** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Tables 1.5.3** | ☆☆☆☆☆ |

## >> TEST TWO

# Functions

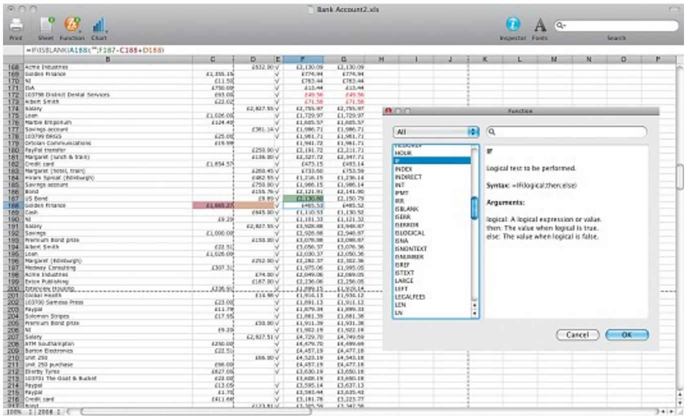
Do more functions mean more functionality?

Even power users rarely employ more than a small subset of the functions provided in a spreadsheet, but it's important to get the ones you need. With 375 functions, *OpenOffice.org* has the most. It's followed by *Excel*, which provides 345. These two heavyweights major on financial, statistical and mathematical calculations. *Numbers* used to be more limited, but the latest version adds more than 90 new functions to bring its total up to 262, showing that it means to be taken seriously for business as well as home use. Perhaps surprisingly, *Google Docs* goes even higher with 277 functions. Since it's an online application and doesn't reside in your Mac, new functions – and other features – can be added at any time. Plus, you don't need to download an upgrade.

*Mariner Calc* and *Tables* lag behind with 142 and 128 functions respectively. However, these have been chosen to cover most general needs so don't be put off.

## >> TEST RESULTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Apple Numbers '09** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Google Docs** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Mariner Calc 5.6.0** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Microsoft Excel 2008** | ★★★★★ |
| **Sun OpenOffice.org 3** | ★★★★★ |
| **Tables 1.5.3** | ★★☆☆☆ |


Bank Account2.xls
Print
Sheet
Function
Chart
Inspector
Fonts
Search
Function
All
Cancel
OK

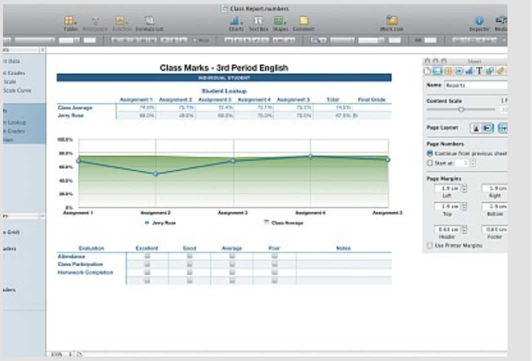
**Despite being one of the simplest programs, Tables still offers a good range of functions.**

## >> HELPING HAND / Working with other applications

Even though spreadsheets are very versatile, they sometimes need a hand. If graphs and charts are important to you, try *OmniGraffle* ($100 (£61), **www.omnigroup.com**) or *pro Fit* ($95 (£58), **www.quansoft.com**), which can extend the range of chart types and help you create graphs with many extra options.

Spreadsheets are often used as an alternative to databases for storing contacts or inventories. That's fine, but a real database provides more flexible options, especially for data entry, display and searching. Both *FileMaker* and *Bento* (£261 and £29 respectively, **www.filemaker.co.uk**) work with *Excel* and *Numbers*, and can import from other spreadsheets too. This works both ways and you can send data from a database to your spreadsheet for analysis and graphing.

Some spreadsheets support plug-ins and extensions, adding specialised abilities and shortcuts. Finally, if your interests are mathematical and scientific, consider *Mathematica* (**www.wolfram.com**). Normally £2,340, it's now offered for non-commercial use at £224. It imports data and take it to a whole new level of analysis.


Class Report.numbers
Class Marks - 3rd Period English
Student Lookup

**Spreadsheets are useful for charting and summarising records.**

**» TEST THREE**

# Entering formulas

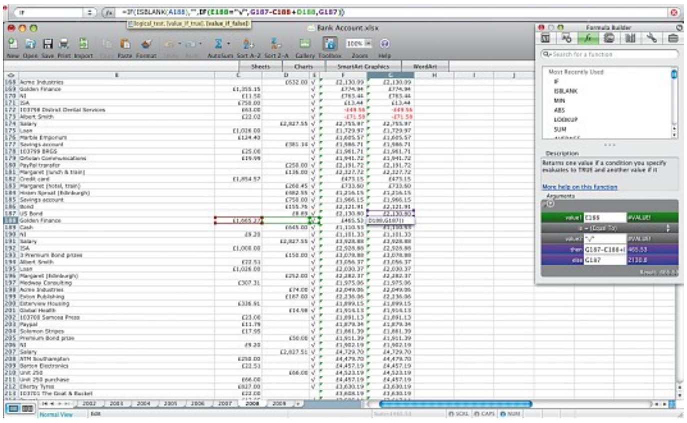
## Which applications make it simple?

Entering formulas is one process where it's easy to get tied up in knots unless the app helps you along. *Excel* offers its **Formula Builder**, which takes you step-by-step through even the most complex nested formulas. By contrast, the *OpenOffice.org* **Formula Bar** feels quite clumsy and confusing, especially when you want to change something that you've already entered. As in most things, *Numbers* offers its own take on the subject with both a **Formula Bar** at the top and a floating **Formula Editor** above the cell. The **Editor** is a bit cramped, but includes some nice extras.

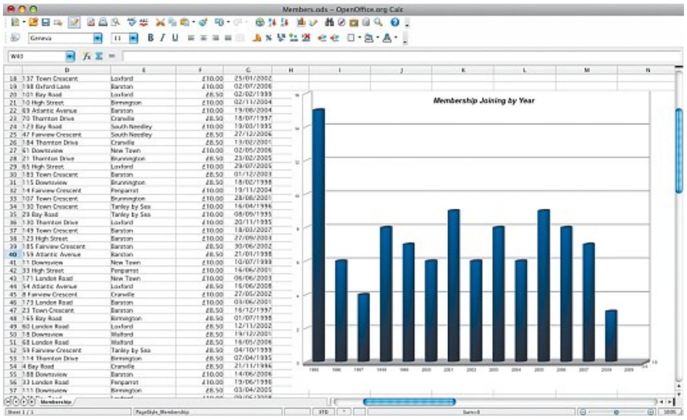
The remaining three programs don't really provide much help with formula entry beyond letting you insert functions from a list (all six programs can do this). *Google Docs* is the least effective because inserting cell references is rather clumsy. All in all, a slightly disappointing performance. Only *Excel* stands out, with *Numbers* some way behind in second place.

**» TEST RESULTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Apple Numbers '09** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Google Docs** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Mariner Calc 5.6.0** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Microsoft Excel 2008** | ★★★★★ |
| **Sun OpenOffice.org 3** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Tables 1.5.3** | ★☆☆☆☆ |



**Excel's Formula Builder makes the otherwise irksome chore of formula entry a breeze.**



**OpenOffice.org provides many options for charts and graphs, although it skimps on style.**

**» TEST FOUR**

# Charts and graphs

## Making all those numbers easier to digest

Even though *Mariner Calc* offers a good range of chart types, the look is dull and your design options are minimal. *Google Docs* supports the more commonly used chart types and makes it easy to create and edit them. But again the options are limited, with no control over colour and little scope for varying the look or layout. *Tables* manages to look slick, but there's almost no user control beyond allowing you to select the basic chart type and colour theme. These applications don't excite in the chart department.

With their big userbase in business and academia, both *Excel* and *OpenOffice.org* provide an extensive range of chart and layout options. Perfect if you need to present data clearly. For eye-catching looks, though, the award must go to *Numbers*. With its slick lighting, shadow and 3D controls, plus good colour and position adjustments, it can make stunning charts. Handle with care, though – it's easy to go OTT…

**» TEST RESULTS**

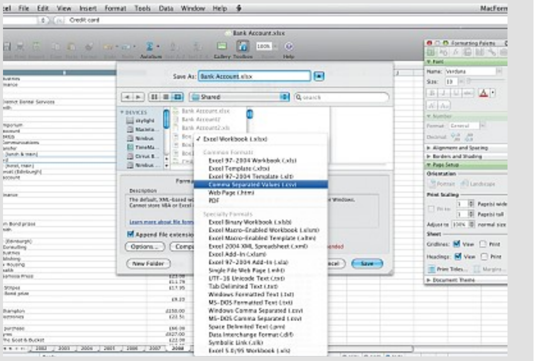
| | |
|---|---|
| **Apple Numbers '09** | ★★★★★ |
| **Google Docs** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Mariner Calc 5.6.0** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Microsoft Excel 2008** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sun OpenOffice.org 3** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Tables 1.5.3** | ★☆☆☆☆ |

## » FILE FORMATS / Exchanging data with other spreadsheets

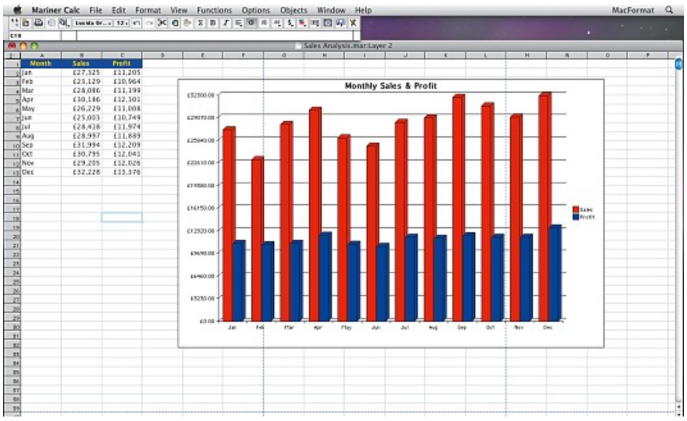
If you use different machines at work and home, need to collaborate with others, or simply want to send your spreadsheet to someone else, then you'll need to think about file formats. *Excel*'s format has become standard, but it's recently changed. The old XLS format has given way to XLSX. Only some spreadsheets have caught up so check to see which ones can handle the new files. You can still save *Excel* sheets in the old form, but XLSX gives better compatibility.

Another XML-based format is ODF (Open Document Format). This is supported by *OpenOffice.org*, *Tables* and *Google Docs* (though we experienced some compatibility problems there). Whichever file format you employ, bear in mind that no two apps have exactly the same range of functions, so some tweaking will usually be needed.

If you want to insert a spreadsheet table into a word processor doc or transfer it to a database, then all you need is the data. Use either CSV (Comma-Separated Values) or TSV (Tab-Separated Values). These are available in all the spreadsheets here. Also, note that the formatting won't transfer.



**Spreadsheets are generally getting better at exchanging data.**


Mariner Calc File Edit Format View Functions Options Objects Window Help
MacFormat
Sales Analysis.mar:Layer 2
Monthly Sales & Profit
Sales
Profit

| Month | Sales | Profit |
|---|---|---|
| Jan | £27,325 | £11,205 |
| Feb | £23,129 | £10,964 |
| Mar | £28,086 | £11,198 |
| Apr | £30,186 | £12,301 |
| May | £26,229 | £11,008 |
| Jun | £25,003 | £10,749 |
| Jul | £28,418 | £11,974 |
| Aug | £28,997 | £11,889 |
| Sep | £31,994 | £12,209 |
| Oct | £30,795 | £12,041 |
| Nov | £29,205 | £12,026 |
| Dec | £32,228 | £13,376 |

Mariner Calc is quite powerful, but looks very old fashioned alongside its rivals.

### >> TEST FIVE

## Creating docs

Make documents from your spreadsheets

Sometimes you just need a no-frills spreadsheet. Other times, you'll want to combine tables, charts and other elements into a form, report or display document that oozes style. Both *OpenOffice.org* and *Mariner Calc* are underachievers in this respect and the results always look pedestrian. *Tables* and *Google Docs* are nicer, but only just. However, *Tables*, *OpenOffice.org* and *Google Docs* do allow you to save as PDFs.

*Excel* performs much better, but the results have a serious feel. The clear champion is *Numbers*. With its flexible formatting options, its colour-themed document styles and its ability to combine and layer objects, it outclasses the others.

If you need more, the combination of *Excel* with *Word*, or *Numbers* with *Pages*, lets you create more complex documents with linked elements that will update automatically. It's the *iWork* combo that wins because of its emphasis on page layout rather than word processing.

### >> TEST RESULTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Apple Numbers '09** | ★★★★★ |
| **Google Docs** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Mariner Calc 5.6.0** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Microsoft Excel 2008** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sun OpenOffice.org 3** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Tables 1.5.3** | ★★☆☆☆ |

### >> TEST SIX

## Security

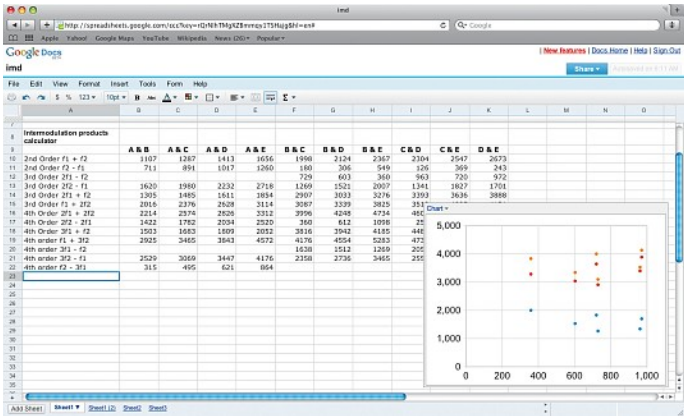
Keeping your data safe and secure

Spreadsheets often contain sensitive information so you may want additional security. *Mariner Calc* and *Tables* don't offer any protection. With *Google Docs* your data is stored on Google's secure servers, and data cannot be accessed by unauthorised users. Google will have better security than you do so it shouldn't be a cause for concern – but sending data unencrypted over the net may be. There are ways to add encryption, but it's not built-in. You'll need to balance the benefits of easy sharing against the possible risks.

The other three programs all provide file-level password protection, with varying degrees of success. Only *OpenOffice.org* encrypts password-protected files. *Excel* doesn't, so some data can be seen just by opening the file with a text editor. *Numbers* doesn't appear to use encryption, but its file structure is such that we couldn't extract any meaningful data. For top security, we'd suggest *OpenOffice.org*.

### >> TEST RESULTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Apple Numbers '09** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Google Docs** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Mariner Calc 5.6.0** | ☆☆☆☆☆ |
| **Microsoft Excel 2008** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Sun OpenOffice.org 3** | ★★★★★ |
| **Tables 1.5.3** | ☆☆☆☆☆ |


Google Docs
imd
File Edit View Format Insert Tools Form Help
Intermodulation products calculator
Chart
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
0
200
400
600
800
1,000
Add Sheet
Sheet1
Sheet1 (2)
Sheet2
Sheet3

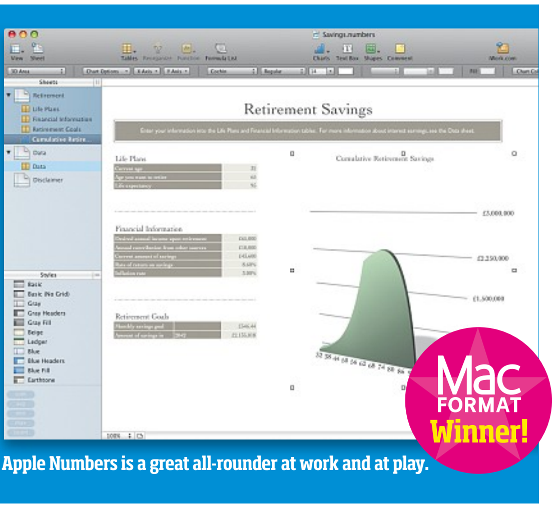
Because Google Docs is an online application, all your data is held on Google's servers.

### >> THE WINNER / Apple Numbers '09

The default spreadsheet for business is Microsoft *Excel* and it's easy to see why – it's powerful, flexible and has been honed to deliver what its users require. *Excel*'s only serious rival is *OpenOffice.org*. Like *Excel*, it's powerful and comes as part of a cross-platform suite. Sadly, the *OpenOffice.org* interface doesn't feel like it was designed by anyone who knows or loves the Mac, unlike *Excel*'s. Other than that, it's solid, versatile and free.

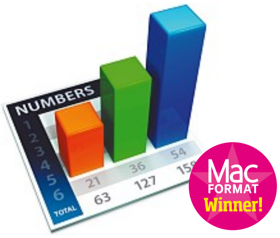
*Google Docs* is also free. Plus it's easy to use and it's powerful. Keeping data online may worry some, but it aids collaboration and mobility. Despite its limitations, *Tables* is fast and uncomplicated – a decent choice for novices. *Mariner Calc*'s interface feels old fashioned and there are no outstanding features. Alongside the free apps, neither of these is in the running.

That leaves the winner as *Numbers*. Apple's commitment to design shines through, as does the calculating power of the app. *Numbers* does everything that home and small business users will need, with great visual appeal and simplicity.


Savings.numbers
Sheets
Retirement
Life Plans
Financial Information
Retirement Goals
Cumulative Retire...
Data
Data
Disclaimer
Styles
Basic
Basic (No Grid)
Gray
Gray Headers
Gray Fill
Beige
Ledger
Blue
Blue Headers
Blue Fill
Earthtone
Retirement Savings
Life Plans
Financial Information
Retirement Goals
Cumulative Retirement Savings
£3,000,000
£2,250,000
£1,500,000
Mac FORMAT Winner!

Apple Numbers is a great all-rounder at work and at play.

## SPREADSHEET PROGRAMS / AT A GLANCE



### Apple Numbers '09

★★★★★

### Google Docs

★★★☆☆

### Mariner Calc 5.6.0

★★☆☆☆

| SPECIFICATIONS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Price** | £69 (as part of iWork '09) | Free | $50 (£31) |
| **URL** | www.apple.com/uk | www.google.co.uk | www.marinersoftware.com |
| **System requirements** | Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later | Dependent on browser | Mac OS X 10.4 or later |
| **Bundled templates** | 29 | Download from website | 1 |
| **Functions** | 262 | 277 | 142 |
| **Major chart types** | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| **3D charts?** | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Plug-ins?** | No | No | No |
| **Macros?** | No | No | No |
| **Reads Excel XLS and XLSX files?** | Yes | Yes | .xls only |
| **ODF support?** | No | Yes | No |
| **PDF export?** | Yes | Yes | No |

### Microsoft Excel 2008

★★★★☆

### Sun OpenOffice.org 3

★★★★☆

### Tables 1.5.3

★★☆☆☆

| SPECIFICATIONS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Price** | £117 (as part of Office 2008) | Free | £34 |
| **URL** | www.microsoft.com/uk | www.openoffice.org | www.x-tables.eu |
| **System requirements** | Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later | Mac OS X 10.4 or later | Mac OS X 10.4 or later |
| **Bundled templates** | 53 | Download from website | 0 |
| **Functions** | 345 | 375 | 128 |
| **Major chart types** | 11 | 9 | 4 |
| **3D charts?** | Yes | Yes | No |
| **Plug-ins?** | Yes | Yes | No |
| **Macros?** | Yes | Yes | No |
| **Reads Excel XLS and XLSX files?** | Yes | Yes | xls only |
| **ODF support?** | No | Yes | Yes |
| **PDF export?** | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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__Trevor Jackson, p30

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*"There's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro"*

**>> HOW TO BUY A NEW MAC P114**

## HOW TO BUY

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# Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- iPODS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Graham Barlow
**Editor**

This month Apple quietly slipped an updated white MacBook onto the market, without much fanfare. In fact, if you blinked you would have missed the announcement. It's exactly the same as its predecessor, except it has a slightly faster processor (now at 2.13GHz, up from the previous 2.0GHz) and the hard drive is slightly larger at 160GB (up 40GB from the previous 120GB model). While these improvements are small I was quite surprised to see that Apple has also made another small addition – but this time to the price. The new white MacBook is now £30 more expensive at £745. Remember, the white MacBook is still Apple's entry-level notebook, and was already looking a bit pricey compared to an entry-level PC notebook. While Apple does well if you compare the MacBook's price to a similarly specced PC, it's clear that Apple still has no interest in the low-end market.

### >> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

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# How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

**» DID YOU KNOW THIS?**

The new Mac mini has some impressive green credentials under its hood. When it's idle it uses less than 13 watts of power.

Over recent months we have seen updates to most of Apple's Mac range. All Apple desktops were updated in March and in May the white MacBook also saw a slight speed and hard drive boost. Apple's entry-level Mac, the Mac mini, had a long-overdue upgrade, with more power, hard drive space and RAM. You now have the choice of a 120GB or 320GB hard drive with 1GB or 2GB RAM respectively. With prices starting from £499, it's a great Mac to switch to from a PC.

> "Desktop Macs are more powerful, but if you need to use your Mac on the go, Apple's laptops certainly won't leave you disappointed"

The all-in-one iMac has updated processor speeds, RAM and hard drive space up to 1TB. They're perfect for graphic design or using the great *iLife* apps, and there's plenty of space to save your masterpieces. And not to be left out, the Mac Pro now comes as either Quad-Core or 8-Core, offering the most powerful Mac to date.

Desktop Macs are more powerful, but Apple's laptops won't leave you disappointed, either.

## Making your mind up

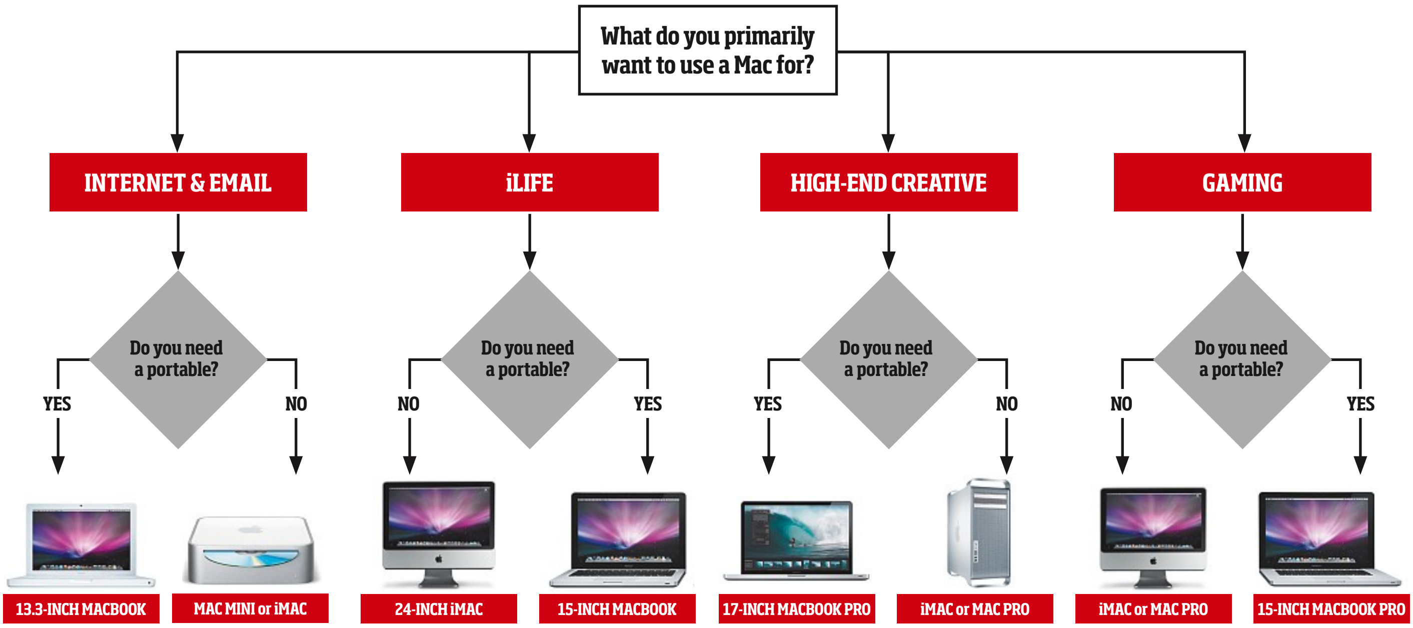
All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips, as a minimum, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful. So now you need to choose whether you need a laptop or a desktop. If you work on the move then you need a laptop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £749 with the white 13-inch version, and is great for less intensive work, such as the *iLife* apps. The aluminium 13-inch MacBook (starting at £929) has the same screen size but a glossy screen, a bigger hard drive and faster memory. The 2.4GHz model (at £1,125) has an even bigger hard drive and an illuminated keyboard, so when the ambient light dims, the keys light up.

As its name suggests, the MacBook Pro, starting at £1,369, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The 2.66GHz 17-inch version now lasts up to eight hours on one single battery charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before. The MacBook Pro is great

**Apple offers three choices of desktop Mac. The Mac mini may look tiny, but it packs a punch.**

## CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13.3-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
24-INCH iMAC
15-INCH MACBOOK
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

for designers needing that extra power and storage space. Finally, the thin and light MacBook Air lacks ports and a built-in DVD drive, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £64.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4 or 2.66GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.66GHz version, too. You can upgrade the 2.66GHz Pro to 2.93GHz for an extra £206. The MacBook and MacBook Air have 13-inch screens.

*"The 2.66GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro lasts up to eight hours on one charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before"*

### Mac desktops

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £499 you get a 2.0GHz machine with 1GB RAM and 120GB hard drive, or a 2.0GHz with 2GB RAM and 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need to provide a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.93GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz with a 1TB hard drive, from £949. These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '09* suite. ●

### DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Make sure you have a WiFi network before getting a MacBook Air; an Ethernet adaptor costs £19 extra and hogs the USB port.

**The latest portable Macs come complete with a gorgeous and hard-wearing aluminium finish.**

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# Your choice of Apple gear

## Let us help you make the right purchase

**20-inch 2.66GHz**
£949
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 20-inch glossy widescreen (1,680x1,050 pixels)
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

**24-inch 2.93GHz**
£1,499
- 2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

Updated March 2009

## iMac

**24-inch 2.66GHz**
£1,199
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

**24-inch 3.06GHz**
£1,799
- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 130 with 512MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

**>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?**
Despite being tiny, the latest Mac mini from Apple now has five USB 2.0 and one FireWire 800 ports.

**2.0GHz 120GB**
£499
- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB RAM (1x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 120GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 128MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Updated March 2009

## Mac mini

**2.0GHz 320GB**
£649
- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

## MacBook

### 13-inch white 2.13GHz

£749

- 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)
- 160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
- 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR2 SDRAM
- AirPort Extreme
- Built-in iSight video camera
- Bluetooth 2.0

**Updated** May 2009

**Updated** January 2009

### 13-inch 2.0GHz

£929

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
- 160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
- 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard

### 13-inch 2.4GHz

£1,125

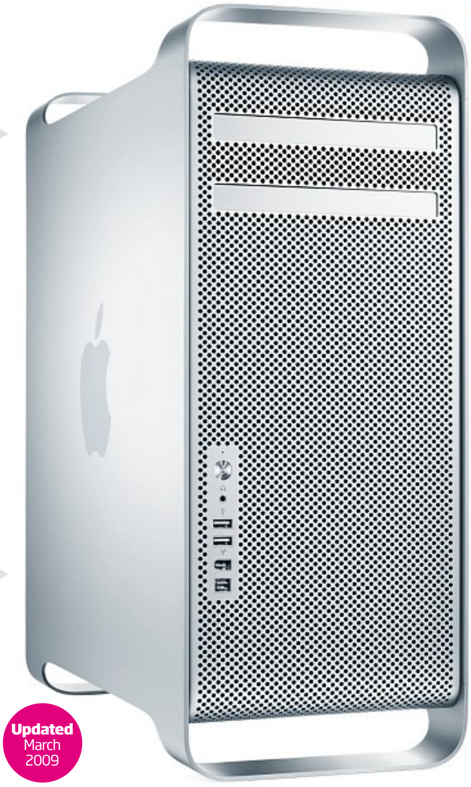
- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard

## Mac Pro

### Quad-Core

£1,899

- 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM)
- NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
- 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
- 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots
- 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
- Keyboard & Mighty Mouse



### 8-Core

£2,499

- 2x 2.66Hz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC)
- NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
- 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
- 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD± RW/CD-RW)
- 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots
- 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
- Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

**Updated** March 2009

## MacBook Air

**Updated** October 2008

### 13-inch 1.6GHz

£1,271

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen
- 1,280x800 pixels
- 1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM
- 120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Mac OS X Leopard
- 1x USB 2.0 port
- Micro DVI port
- MagSafe power adaptor

### 13-inch 1.86GHz

£1,761

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM
- 128GB solid-state drive
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Mac OS X Leopard
- 1x USB 2.0 port
- Micro DVI port
- MagSafe power adaptor

## MacBook Pro

### 15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,369

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09
- 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports

### 15-inch 2.66GHz

£1,712

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09
- 1x FireWire 800
- 2x USB 2.0 ports

**Updated** March 2009

### 17-inch 2.66GHz

£1,949

- 17-inch hi-resolution glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium body
- Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09
- 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0 ports

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
Now Playing
Beautiful
Akon
3:40
-1:32
MENU

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> *"The iPod touch has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's simply a joy to use"*

# How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find your ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your **iTunes** window when you're clicked on **Library** – you can get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us only listen to a fraction of our music – thanks to Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the 1GB iPod shuffle. Also available is a new 4GB shuffle, in black or silver, which introduces the VoiceOver technology. This enables the iPod to tell you what song is playing, who's performing it and what your playlist is called.

## Slimline nano

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5-inch screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and the 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient. The choice of colour is vast, and there's a nano for everyone.

The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone. ●

Updated
September
2008
MENU

## iPod classic

### iPod classic 120GB

£175

- Up to 30,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 150 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

### iPod shuffle 4GB

£59

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver and black
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

Updated
March
2009

## iPod shuffle

### iPod shuffle 1GB

£31

- Up to 240 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
- 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

Mac FORMAT This Week
MacFormat This Week

# iPod nano

**Updated** September 2008

## iPod nano 8GB

£107

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

## iPod nano 16GB

£146

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

# iPhone 3G

**Updated** June 2008

AT&T 3G
9:42 AM
SMS
Text
Tuesday 9
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
280
Maps
73°
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

## iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

- Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)• Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 133g

## iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

- Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch screen • 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
- Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR • Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 133g

**Updated** September 2008

# iPod touch

## iPod touch 8GB

£165

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

## iPod touch 16GB

£214

- Up to 3,500 songs
- Up to 20,000 photos
- Up to 20 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

## iPod touch 32GB

£283

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm • 120g

## » iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

The iPhone is not just a phone - it's also a great iPod. Steve Jobs even called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB and 16GB, it's not capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, it's almost identical to the iPod touch (the touch also comes in 32GB), but there are key differences.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet - browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email - when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff is that an iPhone costs more. You either have to take out an 18-month contract with O2, or buy it as pay-as-you-go from £342.50.

You do miss out on some stuff - the touch lacks the iPhone's camera, though the second-gen model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original - twice as quick in Apple's testing - but also includes proper GPS; the touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners have to pay for software upgrades; iPhones get them for free.

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APPLE IMAC 20"
The all-in-one for everyone. Elegant, simple, and stunning, iMac packs all its components - from the processor to the iSight camera - into an astoundingly thin, anodised aluminium frame
2.66Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo / 2GB Memory / 320GB HD
8 x double-layer SuperDrive - DVD±RW
ATI HD2600 PRO graphics
Includes Mouse & Keyboard!
GREAT VALUE
Awesome CW Offer £759
£872.85Inc VAT (910.80€) • Exclusive Online Store Offer
SAVE! MEGA DEALS! AT CW
APPLE IMAC 24"
The all-in-one for everyone. Elegant, simple, and stunning, iMac packs all its components - from the processor to the iSight camera - into an astoundingly thin, anodised aluminium frame
2.8Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo / 2GB Memory / 320GB HD
8 x double-layer SuperDrive - DVD±RW
ATI HD2600 PRO graphics
Includes WIRELESS Mouse & Keyboard!
Awesome CW Offer £869
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# BUYERS' GUIDE

## KEYBOARDS & MICE

### Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

**Price:** £48 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
**Web:** www.apple.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/53760
**Key specs:** Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; Requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

+ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
− Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

**"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."**

### Wacom Intuos4 L ★★★★★

**Price:** £430 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/590021
**Key specs:** 5,080lpi res; 2,083 levels of sensitivity
+ Sensational technology; dynamic OLEDs
− Expensive; previous tools incompatible

### Microsoft Mobile Memory ★★★★★

**Price:** £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/217353
**Key specs:** Wireless; 1GB memory; RF/Bluetooth
+ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB
− Odd acceleration behaviour

## ALL-IN-ONES

### Canon PIXMA MP620

★★★★½

**Price:** £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
**Web:** www.canon.co.uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/477048
**Key specs:** Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi); 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette

+ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
− WiFi needs to be set up over USB

**"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."**

### Canon PIXMA MP610 ★★★★★

**Price:** £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/203068
**Key specs:** Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi
+ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
− Slow duplex printing

### Canon PIXMA MX700 ★★★★☆

**Price:** £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/218276
**Key specs:** Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR
+ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
− No duplex

## DISPLAYS

### Apple Cinema Display

★★★★★

**Price:** £1,173 **Reviewed:** Issue 155
**Web:** www.apple.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/133337
**Key specs:** 30-inch screen, 2,560x1,600, 16.7 million colours, DVI display, 2x USB 2.0 ports, 2x FireWire 400

+ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
− Need a lot of room to house it!

**"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are top-notch."**

### Sharp Aquos LC32X20E ★★★★★

**Price:** £517 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/256594
**Key specs:** 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res
+ Great Mac and TV picture quality
− Need a lot of room to house it!

### Apple 24-inch LED Cinema ★★★½☆

**Price:** £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/500220
**Key specs:** 24 inches; 1,920x1,200 pixels
+ Oozes quality all round
− Expensive and Mini DisplayPort only

## SPEAKERS

### Ferguson Hill FH007

★★★★★

**Price:** £396 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
**Web:** www.fergusonhill.co.uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/98316
**Key specs:** 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 4x 16W RMS

+ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
− Take up lots of desk space

**"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."**

### Revo Blok ★★★★½

**Price:** £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/593649
**Key specs:** Aux input for all recent iPods
+ Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
− Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

### Creative Gigaworks T20 II ★★★½☆

**Price:** £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/500205
**Key specs:** 14 watts RMS; 50Hz-20KHz
+ Superb, room-filling sound; solid construction
− Slightly unnatural bass response

## DIGITAL CAMERAS

### Fujifilm FinePix F50fd

★★★★★

**Price:** £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
**Web:** www.fujifilm.co.uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/71926
**Key specs:** 12MP; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation

⊕ Great value; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

**"This is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The FinePix F50fd is £120 well spent."**

### Canon EOS 500D ★★★★☆

**Price:** £763 (body only) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/596771
**Key specs:** 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording
⊕ Increased ISO sensor; DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic

### Pentax Optio M50 ★★★★½

**Price:** £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/414376
**Key specs:** 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zooms
⊕ Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
⊖ Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

## DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

### Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

**Price:** £498 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
**Web:** www.samsung.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/528224
**Key specs:** 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

**"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."**

### Canon HV30 ★★★★½

**Price:** £599 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/468942
**Key specs:** HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills & video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

### Canon HG10 ★★★★½

**Price:** £540 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/216960
**Key specs:** HD; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom
⊕ Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
⊖ Ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

## ROUTERS/NETWORKING

### AirPort Extreme Base

★★★★★

**Price:** £139 **Reviewed:** Issue 181
**Web:** www.apple.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/31026
**Key specs:** 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP, WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

**"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network in minutes."**

### Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

**Price:** £110 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/577291
**Key specs:** 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

### Apple AirPort Express ★★★★½

**Price:** £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
**Full review**: www.techradar.com/311070
**Key specs:** 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2
⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

## STORAGE

### Iomega 500GB MiniMax

★★★★★

**Price:** £80
**Web:** www.iomega-europe.com
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/226173
**Key specs:** 500GB; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) & 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) transfer speeds

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

**"The perfect companion to your Mac mini has substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."**

### Iomega eGo Helium 320GB ★★★★☆

**Price:** £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 204
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/492523
**Key specs:** 320GB capacity; USB 2.0 interface
⊕ Pretty design; solid performance
⊖ USB only; case scratches easily

### Apple Time Capsule 500GB ★★★★☆

**Price:** £229 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/589636
**Key specs:** 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ n & g networks run at full speed; USB disk
⊖ Expensive; no built-in modem; slow first backup

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## iPOD ACCESSORIES

### iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

★★★★★

**Price:** £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 193
**Web:** www.iskin.com
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/224088
**Key specs:** Turn iPod into a remote; 10m range; easy USB connection

⊕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
⊖ High price

**"This little accessory offers a very obvious improvement over the way people normally use iPod speakers."**

### Griffin Clarifi ★★★★★

**Price:** £19 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/476914
**Key specs:** iPhone 3G case; built-in macro lens
⊕ Macro lens for better quality close-ups; sturdy
⊖ Nothing

### Macally TunePro Flat Panel ★★★★★

**Price:** £80 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/218943
**Key specs:** 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg
⊕ Great sound; easy-to-slap snooze button
⊖ Remote sold separately

## MAC ACCESSORIES

### Pro-Ject Debut III

★★★★★

**Price:** £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
**Web:** www.project-audio.com
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/102079
**Key specs:** Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk

⊕ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
⊖ Static crackle required codec update

**"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is outstanding - and that's before you add a USB interface."**

### Elgato turbo.264 HD ★★★★½

**Price:** £138 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/596751
**Key specs:** Output: iPod high/standard; iPhone; PSP
⊕ Super-fast H.264 encoding
⊖ No longer supports PowerPCs; expensive

### Macally Powerlink 3-in-1 ★★★★☆

**Price:** £42 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/458087
**Key specs:** Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0
⊕ Very versatile; convenient for travellers
⊖ Expensive; loose caps easily lost

## iPHONE APPLICATIONS

### NetNewsWire

Feeds
Blogs 7
SFTGE 7
Gadgets 73
BoingBoing 16
Engadget 19
Gizmodo 38

★★★★★

**Price:** £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 199
**Web:** www.newsgator.com
**System reqs:** iPhone OS 2.0
**Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.**

⊕ Sync with your Mac's copy of NNW using the newsgator.com site
⊖ Can't mark already-read items as unread

**"There is no better RSS reader for the Mac or the iPhone, and keeping read items in sync between both is superb."**

### Birdhouse ★★★★★

"To tweet, or not to tweet: that is the question"
-Shak

**Price:** £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
**System reqs:** iPhone OS 2.1
⊕ Draft multiple Twitter notes before you tweet
⊖ Only useful if you are a complete Twitter addict

### LogMeIn Ignition ★★★★☆

**Price:** £17.99 **Reviewed:** Issue 203
**System reqs:** iPhone OS 2.0
⊕ Reliable remote control of computers over web
⊖ iPhone's paltry RAM causes problems; pricey

## EMAIL CLIENTS

### Apple Mail 3.3

★★★★★

**Price:** £85 (with OS X) **Reviewed:** Issue 198
**Web:** www.apple.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/591016
**System reqs:** 9867MHz Mac, 512MB RAM, 9GB HD space, DVD drive, Mac OS X 10.5

⊕ Easy to install and use; good spam protection; excellent search filters
⊖ Need Leopard for latest version

**"Apple Mail is more mature and more reliable than the competition. It's great for home or business use."**

### Mozilla Thunderbird ★★★★½

**Price:** £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 198
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/142475
**System reqs:** Mac OS X 10.2 or later
⊕ Excellent spam protections; simple setup
⊖ Not perfect OS X integration

### Microsoft Entourage 2008 ★★★★☆

**Price:** £100 (with Office) **Reviewed:** Issue 198
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/142428
**System reqs:** 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Ease of use and setup can't be faulted
⊖ No integrated RSS reader

## HOME OFFICE

### Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

**Price:** £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
**Web:** www.apple.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/500293
**System reqs:** G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended).

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

**"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."**

### Micromat TechTool Pro 5 ★★★★★

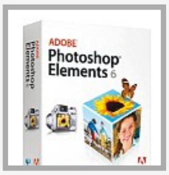
**Price:** £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/528167
**System reqs:** G4/G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Comprehensive tools; reliable performance
⊖ Won't book Oct '08 MacBooks; expensive

### FileMaker Pro 10 ★★★★★

**Price:** £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/500402
**System reqs:** G4/G5; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

## VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

### Photoshop Elements 6



★★★★★

**Price:** £68 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
**Web:** www.adobe.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/224437
**System reqs:** G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB rec); 64MB VRAM, 1GB hard disk space

⊕ Good interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves
⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey; takes over entire screen

**"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."**

### ImageWell 3.7.1 ★★★★½

**Price:** $20 (£14) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/595105
**System reqs:** Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later
⊕ Efficient and feature rich; decent web tools
⊖ Ugly, clunky interface

### Realmac RapidWeaver ★★★★☆

**Price:** £59 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/587724
**System reqs:** Mac OS X 10.5
⊕ Easy for a beginner, but also advanced options
⊖ Very template based; unimpressive Flash

## GAMES

### Spore

★★★★★

**Price:** £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
**Web:** www.spore.com
**System reqs:** Intel Core Duo processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space

⊕ Great looks; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
⊖ Too simplistic?

**"Spore is an amazing experience on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's amazing."**

### And Yet It Moves ★★★★★

**Price:** €12 (£11) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
**Web:** www.andyetitmoves.net
**System reqs:** G4/G5/Intel 2GHz; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4
⊕ Looks and sounds great; interesting gameplay
⊖ Too short

### LEGO Indiana Jones ★★★★☆

**Price:** £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
**Web:** www.feralinteractive.com
**System reqs:** Intel 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.8
⊕ Loads of levels; cooperative play; in-jokes
⊖ Awkward keyboard controls; formulaic

## MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

### Apple Logic Studio

★★★★★

**Price:** £312 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
**Web:** www.apple.com/uk
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/227009
**System reqs:** G4/G5 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space

⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive interface
⊖ Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

**"Apple Logic Studio is a comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."**

### Apple iPhoto '09 ★★★★★

**Price:** £69 (part of iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/527969
**System reqs:** G4/G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.6
⊕ Practical tools; new options to export slideshow
⊖ Faces could be better; few cameras have GPS

### Apple iTunes 8 ★★★★★

**Price:** £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
**Full review:** www.techradar.com/468551 **System reqs:** G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
⊖ Genius recommendations affect performance

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> **Graham Barlow - Editor MacFormat**

## Next month:

# Snow Leopard

Discover whether OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard is going to be worth the upgrade price!

## Get the best from iLife '09

Hints and tips for getting more out of iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, GarageBand and iWeb

iWeb File Edit Insert Format Arrange View Window Help
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112 items

Melissa and I are the very best of friends! As you can see from this great photo!

## DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Safely remove applications
- Master Leopard's QuickLook feature
- Improve image sharpening in Photoshop

**ISSUE ON SALE 22 JULY 2009**

*Contents subject to change*

# On the disc

**● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS**

## Welcome to the disc

### Issue 210

We're all paying extra attention to our finances at the moment. Working out where you can save money can be a fairly daunting task, which is why I've included some software assistance on this issue's *MacFormat* disc.

It comes in the form of *Money 2.5.9*, a full product from maker of many *iLife* themes, Jumsoft. *Money* is aimed at giving those with little background or interest in accounting an assisted leg-up. So there's no need to invest in an accountancy dictionary to learn the definitions of terms like capital addition, kaizen budgeting and tango sheets.

> *"Money is aimed at giving those with little background or interest in accounting a leg-up"*

*Money* boasts complete compatibility with all of the standards and concepts of accounting, meaning it can be used for personal finances, but is also expandable up to a small business too. This is obvious from the integrated banking management, payee management, categories management, OFX file format support, and a host of other features. But why stop there? *Money 3* boasts all this and more. Plus, as an avid reader of this magazine, you're entitled to a discount, which can be found on the opposite page.

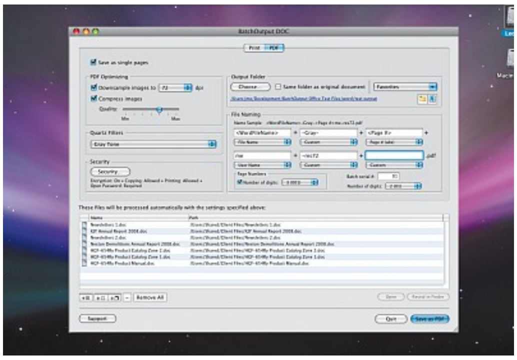
**Each issue, New Media Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software for you to enjoy on your Mac.**

**>> PDF CREATOR**

## BatchOutput DOC 1

### Create PDFs directly from within Microsoft Word

There may be basic plug-ins for Microsoft *Word* that enable you to print your current document as a PDF to your hard disk. But these offer only simple functionality. If you want more control and advanced features, try *BatchOutput DOC* from Zevrix Solutions. It's possible to automatically process thousands of documents, saving you the time and hassle of outputting each file manually. Just select the documents you need to output, adjust the settings and *BatchOutput* will do the rest for you.



Take the hassle out of PDF conversion with BatchOutput DOC.

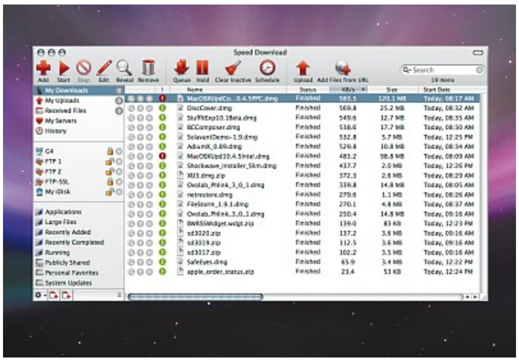
**>> DOWNLOAD MANAGER**

## Speed Download 4

### Accelerate your download transfer times

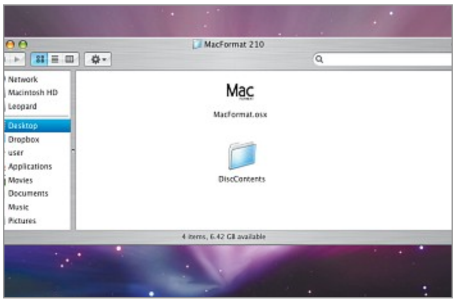
Download managers have come a long way since the internet's slow bandwidth beginnings. Back in the day, if you were on a 28k dialup modem, a download manager would consist of a list of transfers to auto-resume after the regular disconnections common with dialup.

*Speed Download* features an FTP client with SSL, Mac iDisk integration with unlimited undos throughout the entire app, smart folder technology, secure P2P file sharing and more.



Give your download times a boost with Speed Download 4.

## HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc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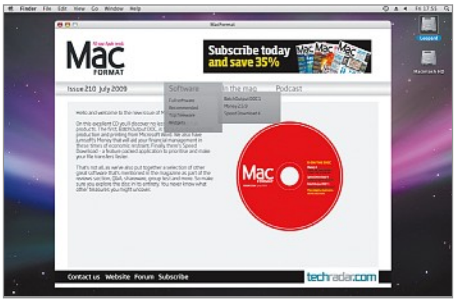
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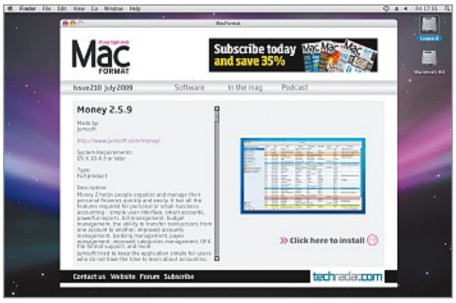
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### 01 Loading the disc

After inserting your *MacFormat* disc into your drive, double-click the disc icon on your Desktop, then double-click the icon named MacFormat.osx. This will load the interface so you can view info about the items on the disc.

### 02 The software

Once loaded, accept the terms and conditions in order to go to the homepage. From here you can click Software, In The Mag or Podcast. The first two lead to sub-sections, which contain the software tools.

### 03 Getting the apps

Selecting an item will load details about the software. To delve straight into the app, click Click here to open. An installer will load or you will go to a window to extract the archive or execute the setup file manually. ●

# Full disc contents

The complete list to what you'll find on your disc this issue

## SOFTWARE

### Full software

BatchOutput DOC 1
Money 2.5.9
Speed Download 4

### Recommended

BatchOutput DOC 2.0.4
Money 3.3.1
Speed Download 5.1.4

### Top freeware

DMGConverter 5.0.4
eBaytoiCal 4.3
Eternal Lands 1.8
Events 4.2
FrameByFrame 1.9
Frozen-Bubble 1.0e
Library Books 2.6b172
Plain Clip 2.1
Web iPhoto Access 2.4
XBMC Media Center 9.04

### Widgets

iTube Widget 1.21
iTunes Timer 1.2
MailWidget 3.06
Sports Fan Widget 1.3.10

## IN THE MAG

### Group test

OpenOffice.org 3.0.1
Tables 1.5.3

### Q&A

MacFreePOPs 2.5

### Reviews

Capo 1.0.3
Free fonts
MacFamilyTree 5.5.2
Phone plugins 2.3
Tweetie 1.1.1

### Shareware reviews

Clyppan 1.0
Dock Gone 1.0b5
Hyperspaces 1.0b6
iMedia Browser 1.2
Musicbox 1.0.3

### Top 50 Mac shortcuts

Growl 1.1.4
Inquisitor 3.2v61
iTweak 1.5.2
Mail Act-On 2.0.5
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## PODCAST

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## GET YOUR SERIAL CODE

Some products on the disc require registration to unlock all the features. Instructions are on the interface, which is loaded from the disc's root.

## HAVING PROBLEMS?

In the unlikely event of your disc being defective, please email our support team at **discsupport@futurenet.com** for further assistance. If you would prefer to talk to a member of our support team in person, call **01225 822743**. If you have comments about the software we include or you have suggestions for software that you would like to see on future discs, please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

## READER OFFERS / Save yourself £££s

### Save and upgrade to BatchOutput DOC 2!

Now you've tried *BatchOutput DOC 1*, you can upgrade to version 2 for a special price of $19.95 (£12). It usually retails for $49.95 (£30). Just head to **www.zevrix.com/upgrade.php** and submit your serial number when prompted.

### Get Money 3 for half the retail price!

With this special *MacFormat* offer, you can upgrade to the *Money 3* accounting program for $19 (£12) instead of $39 (£24). That's a saving of 50%! To take advantage of this offer, go to **http://store.esellerate.net/jumsoft/store**.

### Upgrade to Speed Download 5 for $15!

*Speed Download 5* offers even more functionality, and you can upgrade to it for just $15 (£9), that's a saving of $10 (£6)! At the checkout of the Kagi store via **www.yazsoft.com**, enter the code **MacFormat2009** in the **Coupon/Promo Code** box.

# On your disc

Find three full programs plus a selection of widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

Mac
FORMAT
ISSUE 210 / July 2009

**MISSING YOUR DISC?**
If your disc is missing, email **support@futurenet.com** or phone 01225 822743

## Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

## Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at **www.futurenet.co.uk/support** for advise. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties with your disc, then please email our reader support team (**support@futurenet.com**) or phone 01225 822743 (Monday-Friday, between 10am and 5pm).

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

## Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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